



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### **Usage guidelines**

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

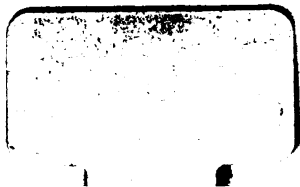
- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### **About Google Book Search**

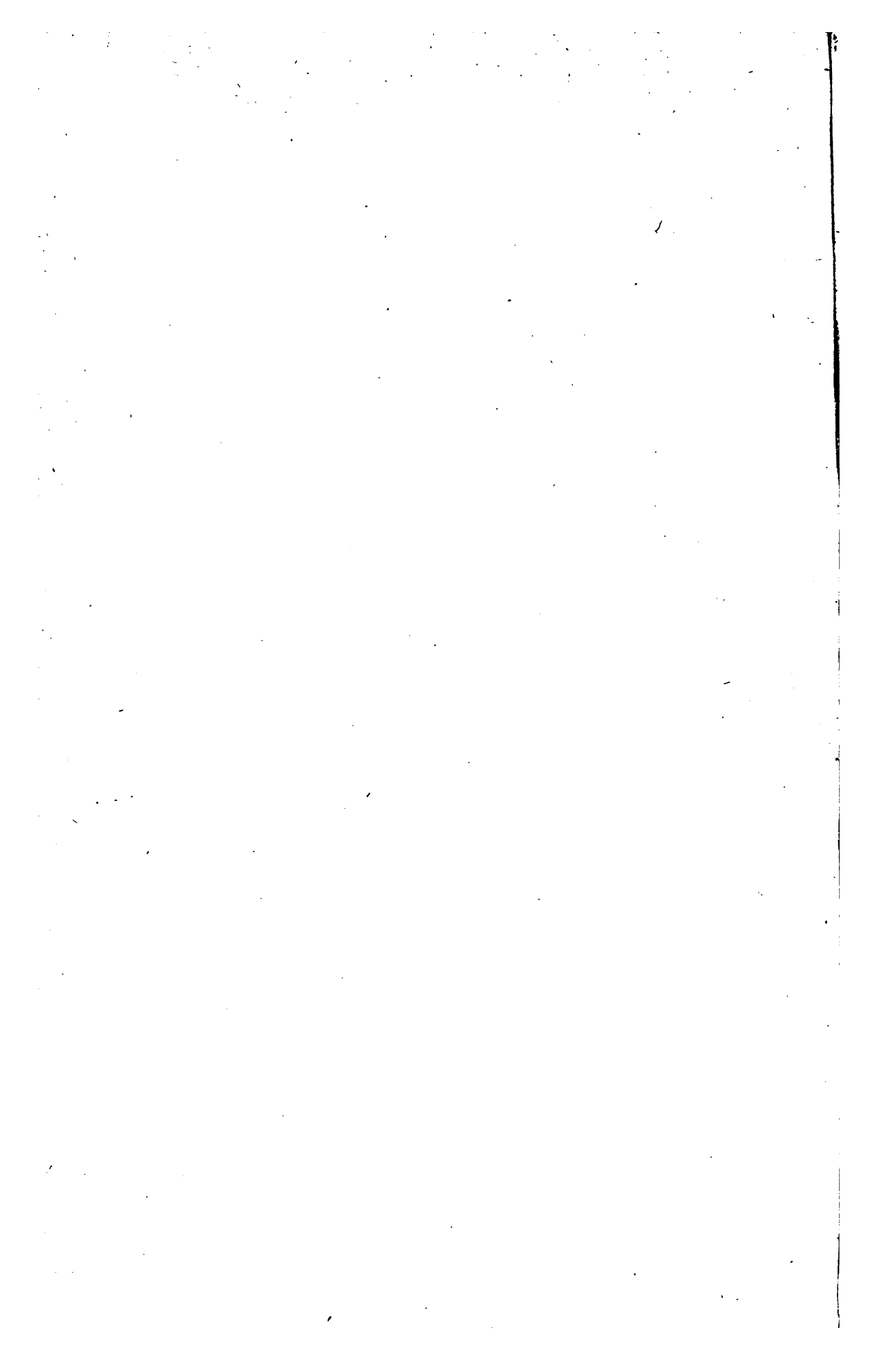
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

74/06-10 Handge

1. Journalism - Australiz - Hist.



NARF  
BONWICK



EARLY STRUGGLES  
OF  
THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS.

1870

1871

83285.

SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR GORDON & GOTCH'S "AUSTRALIAN HANDBOOK," 1890.

EARLY STRUGGLES  
OF  
THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS.

BY

JAMES BONWICK, F.R.G.S.

*Author of "Port Phillip Settlement," "Last of the Tasmanians," &c., &c.*

WITH FAC-SIMILES.

London :

GORDON & GOTCH, PUBLISHERS, 6 & 15, ST. BRIDE STREET, E.C.

ALSO AT

MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, AND BRISBANE.

1890.

EN

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
283121B  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
1944

LONDON:  
GORDON AND GOTCH, PRINTERS,  
ST. BRIDE STREET, E.C.



## P R E F A C E .

OF all the institutions of Australia, the Press has exhibited the greatest vitality, exercised the most powerful influence, and illustrated the most decided progression.

Usually the march of events in our Southern Colonies has been estimated by their increase of population, their growth of revenue, their leap in commerce, their expansion of wealth ; yet there can be no more reliable evidence of development than that afforded by the history of their Press.

Colonial progress in people and resources has engaged many pens. The complete narrative of Australian newspapers has yet to be written. The author, who had his first personal knowledge of colonial literature in 1841, and has seen there the earliest specimens of the printer's art, desired to lay some foundation stones of the structure that is to declare the glory of the Australian Press. As he has told the tale of primitive settlements and primitive races, he would fain tell something of primitive printers and editors. Younger men must take up the thread of discourse.

The crushing in of so many particulars, in a space limited by circumstances, could not fail to involve some sacrifice of rounded periods and polished style, for which the critics' indulgence is sought.

The honour of the institution of the Press in Australia is claimed by Governor King. His motive for the work is thus described in his dispatch to Lord Hobart, May 9th, 1803 : —

“ It being desirable that the settlers, and inhabitants at large, should be benefited by useful information being distributed among them, I considered that a weekly publication would greatly facilitate that design ; for which purpose I gave permission to an ingenious man, who manages the Government printing press, to collect materials weekly, which, being inspected by an officer, is published in the form of a weekly newspaper, copies of which, as far as they have been published, I have the honour to enclose. And as the motive that has guided me in granting this indulgence to the inhabitants has been for bettering their condition, I promise myself your lordship's approbation. To the list of *wants* I have added a new fount of letters, which may be procured for eight or ten pounds, sufficient for our purpose, if approved of.”

Though Australia has now political emancipation from the absolute control of a Governor, needing from him neither patronage nor favour, the fostering hand of a ruler in its infant days should be gratefully acknowledged by colonists at the present time.

The “ Struggles of the Australian Press ” are but records of ancient history ; yet the men who endured much to maintain and carry forward the light of colonial literature are surely entitled to respectful memory, if not sympathetic regard.

London, February 1st, 1890.

JAMES BONWICK.

Bruce Cameron 11 Jan. 1944



# CONTENTS.

|   | PAGE.  |   | PAGE. |
|---|--------|---|-------|
| Adelaide Chronicle ... ..                   | 76     | Hamilton Spectator ... ..                             | 70    |
| Adelaide Guardian ... ..                    | 76     | Heads of the People ... ..                            | 26    |
| Adelaide Independent ... ..                 | 77     | Herald, Port Phillip ... ..                           | 64    |
| Adelaide Miscellany and New Zealand Review  | 77     | Hermit in Van Diemen's Land, The ... ..               | 46    |
| Adelaide Observer ... ..                    | 76     | Hill's Life in New South Wales ... ..                 | 20    |
| Adelaide Times ... ..                       | 77     | Hobart Town Advertiser ... ..                         | 40    |
| Advocate, Victorian ... ..                  | 69     | Hobart Town Courier ... ..                            | 40    |
| Age, Melbourne ... ..                       | 69     | Hobart Town Gazette (with reduced <i>fac-</i>         |       |
| Age, Sydney ... ..                          | 28     | <i>simile</i> ) ... ..                                | 33    |
| Albion ... ..                               | 69     | Howe's Weekly Commercial Express ... ..               | 17    |
| Allen's Adelaide News Letter ... ..         | 77     | Illustrated Australian Magazine ... ..                | 68    |
| Arden's Sydney Magazine ... ..              | 27     | Inquirer ... ..                                       | 50    |
| Argus ... ..                                | 66     | <i>Introduction</i> ... ..                            | 1     |
| Atlas ... ..                                | 25     | Ipswich Herald ... ..                                 | 82    |
| Australasian, The Quarterly ... ..          | 68     | Launceston Advertiser ... ..                          | 37    |
| Australasian Chronicle ... ..               | 25     | Launceston Examiner ... ..                            | 39    |
| Austral-Asiatic Review ... ..               | 37     | Leader ... ..   | 69    |
| Australasian Temperance Magazine ... ..     | 26     | Leschenault Sunbeam ... ..                            | 50    |
| Australian ... ..                           | 12     | <i>Liberty of the New South Wales Press</i> ... ..    | 29    |
| Australian Chronicle ... ..                 | 20     | <i>Liberty of the Tasmanian Press</i> ... ..          | 42    |
| Australian Magazine ... ..                  | 12, 22 | Maryborough and Dunnolly Advertiser ... ..            | 70    |
| Ballarat Evening Post ... ..                | 70     | Maryborough Chronicle ... ..                          | 79    |
| Ballarat Star ... ..                        | 70     | Melbourne Advertiser (with reduced <i>fac-</i>        |       |
| Ballarat Times ... ..                       | 70     | <i>simile</i> ) ... ..                                | 52    |
| Banner ... ..                               | 69     | Melbourne Courier ... ..                              | 66    |
| Belfast Gazette ... ..                      | 66     | Melbourne Daily News ... ..                           | 66    |
| Bell's Life in Sydney ... ..                | 26     | Melbourne Illustrated News ... ..                     | 70    |
| Bendigo Advertiser ... ..                   | 70     | Melbourne Magazine ... ..                             | 60    |
| Bendigo Independent ... ..                  | 70     | Melbourne Monthly Magazine ... ..                     | 70    |
| Bent's News and Tasmanian Threepenny        |        | Melbourne Punch ... ..                                | 70    |
| Register ... ..                             | 41     | Melbourne Satirist ... ..                             | 65    |
| <i>Bent's Petition to Parliament</i> ... .. | 44     | Melbourne Times ... ..                                | 69    |
| Bi-Weekly ... ..                            | 39     | <i>Memorial of Melbourne Editors</i> ... ..           | 31    |
| Blossom ... ..                              | 19     | Monitor ... ..  | 16    |
| Brisbane Courier ... ..                     | 80     | Moreton Bay Courier ... ..                            | 79    |
| Catholic Record ... ..                      | 47     | Morning Chronicle ... ..                              | 28    |
| Church of England Messenger ... ..          | 68     | Mount Alexander Mail ... ..                           | 70    |
| Colonial Advocate ... ..                    | 46     | Murray's Austral-Asiatic Review ... ..                | 37    |
| Colonial Observer ... ..                    | 28     | <i>New South Wales Press, Struggles of the</i> ... .. | 3     |
| Colonial Pocket Almanack, 1805... ..        | 7      | <i>New South Wales Press, Liberty of the</i> ... ..   | 29    |
| Colonial Register ... ..                    | 71     | New South Wales Magazine ... ..                       | 22    |
| Colonial Times ... ..                       | 40     | North Australian ... ..                               | 83    |
| Colonist ... ..                             | 24     | Observer, Tasmania ... ..                             | 41    |
| Commercial Journal and Advertiser ... ..    | 26     | Observer, Melbourne ... ..                            | 69    |
| Cornwall Chronicle ... ..                   | 39     | Observer, Sydney ... ..                               | 21    |
| Cornwall Press ... ..                       | 40     | Omnibus and Sydney Spectator ... ..                   | 27    |
| Currency Lad ... ..                         | 26     | Ovens and Murray Advertiser ... ..                    | 70    |
| Darling Downs Gazette ... ..                | 82     | People's Advocate ... ..                              | 26    |
| Derwent Star ... ..                         | 32     | Perth Gazette and W. A. Journal ... ..                | 47    |
| Die Deutsche Post ... ..                    | 77     | Pictures of Sydney ... ..                             | 26    |
| Duncan's Weekly Register of Politics ... .. | 29     | Portland Gazette ... ..                               | 66    |
| Egotist ... ..                              | 75     | Portland Guardian ... ..                              | 69    |
| Empire ... ..                               | 29     | Portland Mercury ... ..                               | 69    |
| <i>English Press Struggles</i> ... ..       | 1      | Port Lincoln Herald... ..                             | 76    |
| Freeman's Journal ... ..                    | 29     | Port Phillip Christian Herald ... ..                  | 61    |
| Freemantle Herald ... ..                    | 47     | Port Phillip Gazette... ..                            | 54    |
| Free Press and Commercial Journal ... ..    | 26     | Port Phillip Herald ... ..                            | 64    |
| Geelong Advertiser ... ..                   | 65     | Port Phillip Patriot ... ..                           | 61    |
| Gippsland Mercury ... ..                    | 70     | Punch, Melbourne ... ..                               | 70    |
| Gippsland Times ... ..                      | 70     | Punch, Queensland ... ..                              | 79    |
| Gleaner ... ..                              | 17, 19 | Queenslander ... ..                                   | 79    |
| Gold Diggers' Monthly Magazine ... ..       | 69     | Queensland Guardian ... ..                            | 81    |
| Government Gazette (Sydney) ... ..          | 18     | <i>Queensland Press, Struggles of the</i> ... ..      | 78    |
| Government Gazette (Hobart) ... ..          | 40     | Queensland Times ... ..                               | 82    |
| Government Gazette (Victoria) ... ..        | 69     | Register, Colonial ... ..                             | 71    |
| <i>Gratis Newspapers (Tasmania)</i> ... ..  | 41     | Review, Murray's ... ..                               | 37    |
| Guardian ... ..                             | 26     |   |       |
| Guardian, Weekly ... ..                     | 81     |   |       |

## CONTENTS.

|  | PAGE. |   | PAGE. |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| Satirist and Sporting Chronicle ... ..                       | 27    | Teetotaller ... ..                                    | 26    |
| Sentinel ... ..  | 28    | Tegg's Monthly Magazine... ..                         | 26    |
| South Asian Register ... ..                                  | 19    | Temperance Advocate ... ..                            | 26    |
| South Australian Press, <i>Struggles of the</i> ... ..       | 71    | Temperance Herald ... ..                              | 26    |
| South Australian Gazette ... ..                              | 71    | Toowoomba Chronicle ... ..                            | 82    |
| South Australian Magazine ... ..                             | 75    | Trade List and Shipping Gazette ... ..                | 22    |
| South Australian Newsletter ... ..                           | 75    | True Catholic ... ..                                  | 42    |
| South Briton ... ..  | 42    | True Colonist ... ..                                  | 41    |
| Southern Australian ... ..                                   | 74    | Trumpeter ... ..                                      | 41    |
| Spectator ... ..   | 26    | Van Diemen's Land Gazette ... ..                      | 33    |
| Spectator and Van Diemen's Land Gazette ... ..               | 41    | Van Diemen's Land Monthly Magazine ... ..             | 41    |
| Standard, Melbourne ... ..                                   | 69    | Van Diemen's Land Temperance Herald ... ..            | 41    |
| Surveyor-General ... ..                                      | 22    | <i>Victorian Press, Struggles of the</i> ... ..       | 52    |
| Swan River Guardian ... ..                                   | 50    | Victorian Colonist ... ..                             | 66    |
| Swan River Miscellany ... ..                                 | 51    | Victorian Government Gazette ... ..                   | 69    |
| Sydney Gazette (with reduced <i>fac-simile</i> ) ... ..      | 3     | Voice in the Wilderness ... ..                        | 29    |
| Sydney Herald ... ..   | 19    | Warrnambool Examiner ... ..                           | 69    |
| Sydney Standard ... ..                                       | 26    | Warwick Argus ... ..                                  | 82    |
| Sydney Times ... ..  | 23    | Weekly Free Press ... ..                              | 69    |
| <i>Tasmanian Press, Struggles of the</i> ... ..              | 32    | Weekly Herald (Queensland) ... ..                     | 81    |
| <i>Tasmanian Press, Liberty of the</i> ... ..                | 42    | Weekly Observer ... ..                                | 21    |
| Tasmanian ... ..   | 36    | Weekly Reformer ... ..                                | 69    |
| Tasmanian Almanac ... ..                                     | 41    | Weekly Register ... ..                                | 28    |
| Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science ... ..                  | 42    | Weekly Sun ... ..                                     | 29    |
| Tasmanian and Southern Literary and Political Journal ... .. | 37    | <i>West Australian Press, Struggles of the</i> ... .. | 47    |
| Tasmanian Weekly Dispatch ... ..                             | 41    | West Australian Magazine ... ..                       | 51    |
|  |       | Western Press (Victoria) ... ..                       | 66    |

# EARLY STRUGGLES OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS.

## INTRODUCTION.

AS an introduction to the "Early Struggles of the Australian Press," some remarks upon the Early Struggles of the English Press may not be out of place, and particularly so when it is remembered that Australia inherited the disabilities not less than the advantages of the Mother Country.

The *English Mercury* appeared in 1588, the year of the Armada; *News from Spain*, 1611; *News out of Germany*, 1612, &c. The *Courant*, or *Weekly News from Foreign Parts*, was printed, 1621, for Nath. Butters; the *Certain News of the Present Week*, 1622; *Weekly Account*, 1634; *Diurnal of Occurrences in Parliament*, 1640; the *English Post*, 1641; *Ireland's True Diurnal*, 1641.

In 1642 appeared *A Perfect Diurnal*, *Weekly Intelligencer*, and the *Daily Intelligencer of Court, City, and Country*. There were thirty-two papers in 1643; as, the *Mercurius Rusticus*, the *Scotch Intelligencer*, the *Scotch Dove*, the *Welch Mercury*, *Mercurius Cambro-Britannicus*, &c. The *London Post* came out in 1646. Next year came *Mercurius Diabolicus* or *Hell's Intelligencer*. In 1648 there were, among many others, the *Parliament Kite* or the *Tell-tale Bird*, the *Parliament's Screech Owl*, the *Colchester Spie*, and *News from Hell Brought Fresh to Town*.

The *Man in the Moon* and the *Royal Diurnal* were in 1649; the *Weepers*, and the *Laughing Mercury*; or *True and Perfect News from the Antipodes*, in 1652. In 1657 was the *Publick Advertiser*; in 1659, the *Faithful Scout*; and in 1660, the *Mercurius Caledonius*.

Ballads and poems were forerunners of newspapers. Ben Jonson's play, "The Staple of News," 1625, has a character crying,—

"And dish out news,

Were't true or false."

FITT.: "O Sir! it is the printing we oppose."

CYMB.: "We'll not forbid that any news be made,  
But that 't be printed; for when news is printed,  
It leaves, Sir, to be news, while 'tis but written."

FITT.: "Though it be ne'er so false, it runs news still."

Elsewhere Ben Jonson speaks of the office "wherein the Age may see her own folly, or hunger and thirst after published pamphlets of news, set out every Saturday, but made all at home, and no syllable of truth in them."

The LIBERTY OF THE PRESS has been held of supreme importance. Euripides sang in Greece,—

"This is true liberty, when free-born men,  
Having to advise the public, may speak free."

Milton has written: "When complaints are freely heard, deeply considered, and speedily reformed, then is the utmost bound of civil liberty obtained that wise men look for."

Fox Bourne reminds us that "until the time of Queen Anne a small sheet, technically known as a half-sheet, divided into eight quarto pages, usually in double columns, was as much as a week's supply of news could fill, even with the help of advertisements, and when the first daily paper was started in 1702, it was printed only on one side of the folio."

Those early papers were allowed pretty free passage in the early days, and they gave some animation to the parliamentary struggle in the seventeenth century. Though in the contest between the Commons and King Charles some attempted interference took place, newspapers did enjoy a fair measure of freedom until Charles II. placed the fetters on them. May, the great authority on parliamentary usage, remarks,—

"After the Reformation, the Crown assumed the right which the Church had previously exercised, of prohibiting the printing of all works but such as should be first seen and allowed. The censorship of the Press became part of the prerogative; and printing was further restrained by patents and monopolies. Queen Elizabeth interdicted printing save in London, Oxford, and Cambridge." The printing masters were limited to twenty in number.

It should be known that Newsletters preceded Newspapers, and continued after the latter arose. The obliging proprietor of the *Flying Post*, 1695, suggested: "If any gentleman has a mind to oblige his country friend or correspondent with this account of public affairs, he may have it for twopence, of J. Salisbury, at the Rising Sun, in Cornhill, on a sheet of fine paper, half of which, being blank, he may thereon write his own private business." Dawks' *News Letter*, 1696, was in a type to imitate writing, leaving a blank space for private letters. Dawks brought out the *Protestant Mercury*; of which he said: "This paper coming out only on Wednesdays and Fridays, and no other paper coming out on these days, it is near as much read as all the other three papers."

The earliest English country paper was the *Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury*, 1695. The *Norwich Post* appeared in 1706; the *Newcastle Courant*, 1711; *Liverpool Courant*, 1712, having two advertisements, and announcing the arrival of one ship, with the departure of another; *Manchester Gazette*, 1730; *Leeds Mercury*, 1718; York, 1710; Exeter, 1718; Chester, 1721. The *Belfast News Letter* came 1737; *Saunders' News Letter*, 1745; *Freeman's Journal*, 1755. The *Scotsman* rose in 1817. The *Gentleman's Magazine* dates from 1731. The *London Gazette*, by authority, began in 1655.

The Censorship, or restriction upon the Press, was a serious trial to printers. Milton called the censor or licensee the slayer of "an immortality rather than a life," in his great work the "Areopagitica; a Speech for Liberty of Unlicensed Printing." In a letter from Swift to Stella, in 1712, when the Stamp Act was passed, we read: "Grub Street has but ten days to live; then an Act of Parliament takes place that ruins with taxing every half-sheet a halfpenny." In 1789 the stamp was made twopence, rising higher after.

Among early English Acts relative to the Press was the one for printers and binders of books, passed in the twenty-fifth year of Henry VIII. After referring to the Statute of Richard III., permitting foreigners to bring printed and written books to England for sale, King Henry notes the great increase of printers born in the country, but complains of foreigners injuring the home trade by their introduction of books into English markets. Henceforth, all such books have their sale prohibited, under forfeiture of the volumes, and a fine of 6s. 8d. for each book.

In 1549, 3 & 4 Edward VI., was passed "An Act for the abolishing and putting away of divers books and images." This was to hinder the re-establishment of the Romish faith, by the sale of "untrue, vain, and superstitious things." All such missals, journals, or books used for the service of the Church, other than approved by the Government, were expressly forbidden.

Acts 1 & 2 Philip and Mary refer chiefly to speaking or writing against the ruling powers. Doing this by book, ballad, letter or writing subjected the offender to loss of his right hand, or a loss of liberty for life on a second offence.

Elizabeth's Act, 13th year, was against Papal bulls or writings. Act 13 & 14 Charles II., 1662, was more directly against the Press. It was "for preventing the frequent abuses in printing seditious, treasonable, and unlicensed books and pamphlets, and for regulating printing and printing presses."

The disorders of recent years had promoted the printing and sale of very objectionable books, pamphlets, and papers. So the Parliament ordered that no one print or sell that opposed to the State, or to the Church of England. No one was to print that which had not been first registered by the Stationers' Company, unless ordered by the King's sign manual, or by the Secretary of State. All matter must be "first lawfully licensed and authorised to be printed." Then follow directions concerning foreign or heretical books, and who may buy and sell books in London and country towns. No English books could be printed or imported from beyond seas. No press or printing house would be allowed but by leave of the Master of the Stationers' Company. No one was to make a press, and no smith or founder was to cast type, but by consent of that authority, under severe penalties.

The master printers must not exceed twenty; nor type founders, four. No printer could have more than two presses at work at one time. If the master printer had been an official of the Stationers' Company, he might keep three apprentices. Only English journeymen were employed.

The previous Act passed July 14th, 1643, was "for the regulating of printing, and for suppressing the great late abuses and frequent disorders in printing many false, scandalous, seditious, libellous and unlicensed pamphlets, to the great defamation of religion and Government." The following year the licenser's imprimatur appeared to Milton's *Areopagitica*. The Parliaments of 1643 and 1647 passed press penal laws. The London judges, in 1680, declared it criminal to publish any public news without the King's license. The Commons refused, in the time of William III., to renew the Licensing Act. May, the authority, assures us that "writers were hired by statesmen to decry the measures and blacken the characters of their rivals."

A committee of the House, November 27th, 1647, set themselves to discover the authors of *Mercurius Pragmaticus* and *Mercurius Melancholicus*, "to punish them and the printers and sellers of them." The Censor declared in disgust that many papers bore his name which had never been seen by him. The Licensing Act of May 19th, 1662, was to continue in force till 1679, when a worse tyranny that it had sanctioned was existing. A revision occurred in 1685 and in 1693; but the Commons declined a further renewal. The penalties were fines, imprisonment, the pillory, and even hanging.

The first Censor under the Act of Charles the Second was Sir Roger L'Estrange, appointed in 1663 as "Surveyor of the Imprimery and printing presses." His own paper, the *Intelligencer*, displaced others. It contained two and a half pages of foreign news, one page of advertisements, and half a page devoted to his own project. He styled himself "the sole licenser of all ballads, charts, printed portraits, printed pictures, books, and papers;" having "power to search and seize unlicensed and treasonable, schismatical and scandalous books and papers."

That worthy was excessively candid. "His sacred Majesty," said he, "having been lately and graciously pleased to grant and commit the privilege of publishing all intelligence, together with the survey and inspection of the Press, to one and the same person; it may be good discretion, I suppose, for the person so entrusted, to begin (as his first step towards the work) with some considerations and advertisements, by way of preamble and introduction, to the future order and settlement of the whole affair. First, as to the point of printed intelligence, I do declare myself, that, supposing the Press in order, the people in their right wits, and news or no news to be the question, a public *Mercury* should never have my vote: because I think it makes the multitude too familiar with the actions and counsels of their superiors, too pragmatistical and censoring, and gives them, not only an itch, but a kind of colourable right and license, to be meddling with the Government."

His views on the printing trade are thus expressed,—

"A word now to the survey and inspection of the Press. I find it, in general, with the printing, as with their neighbours, there are too many of the trade to live one with another; but more particularly I find them clogged with three sorts of people,—foreigners, persons not free of the trade, and separatists.—I. If any person can give notice, and make proof, of any printing press erected and being in any private place, hole or corner, contrary to the late Act of Parliament for the regulating of printing and printing presses; let him repair with such notice, and make proof thereof, to the Surveyor of the Press, at his office, at the Gun, in Ivy Lane, and he shall have forty shillings for his pains, with what promise of secrecy himself shall desire. II. If any such person as aforesaid shall discover to the said Surveyor any seditious or unlawful book to be upon such a private press imprinting, and withal give his aid to the seizing of the copies and the offenders, his reward shall be five pounds. III. For the discovery and proof of anything printing without authority or license, although in any public house, ten shillings. IV. For the discovery and proof of any seditious or unlawful book to be sold or dispensed, by any of the Mercuries or Hawkers, the informer shall have five shillings."

It was just before this that tea was first advertised:—"That excellent and by all physicians approved China drink, called by the Chineans *tea*, by other nations *tay*, alias *tee*, is sold at the Sultaness' Head Coffee House, London."

Wilkes, for his number 45 of the *North Briton*, April 23rd, 1763, was charged with libel by Government, fined £1,000, and imprisoned twenty-two months. A mob made a gallows for Lord Bute, and there collected £200 for Wilkes. Junius wrote his celebrated thirty-eight letters in the *Public Advertiser*, 1767 to 1772. He said: "I am the sole depository of my own secret, and it shall perish with me." Horne Tooke, formerly John Horne, was in trouble from 1769 to 1785. Another Libel Bill was passed in 1792.

Pitt, in 1789, raised the stamp duty to twopence, and the advertisement tax to half-a-crown. In 1797 the stamp was threepence; in 1809, threepence half-penny. The advertisement tax became 3s. 6d. in 1815. Pitt's Newspaper Act, of April, 1798, inflicted £500 fine for sending a newspaper to a foreign enemy. Between 1806 and 1811 there were forty-two prosecutions. Prudent Cobbett wrote to an American friend, "I do not retire from a contest with the Attorney-General, but from a contest with a dungeon, deprived of pen, ink, and paper. I know too well what a trial by a special jury is."

Of the Six Acts of Castlereagh, in 1814, May tells us:—"The first deprived defendants, in cases of misdemeanour, of the right of traversing. By a second, it was proposed to enable the Court, on the

conviction of a publisher of a seditious libel, to order the seizure of all copies of the libel in his possession, and to punish him on a second conviction with fine, imprisonment, banishment, or transportation. By a third, the newspaper stamp duty was imposed for pamphlets and other papers containing news or observations on public affairs; and recognizances were required from the publishers of newspapers and pamphlets for the payment of any penalty. By a fourth, no meeting of more than fifty persons was permitted to be held without six days' notice being given by seven householders to a justice of the peace. The others related to arms in possession.

Publishers were held liable till Lord Campbell's Libel Act of 1843. It was in 1802 that Napoleon Bonaparte demanded a restriction of the Press liberty in England, as our writers had stung him severely. Lord Hawkesbury sent back this reply to our Paris agent: "His Majesty neither can nor will, in consequence of any representation or menace from a foreign power, make any concession which may be in the smallest degree dangerous to the liberty of the Press."

The failure of Government to stop Cobbett in 1831 led to freedom. May observes: "Prosecutions for libel, like the Censorship, have fallen out of our constitutional system. When the Press errs, it is by the Press itself that the errors are left to be corrected."

In 1833, the advertisement duty was reduced from 3s. 6d. to 1s. 6d. The stamp duty was reduced from fourpence to one penny. Cobden truly said: "So long as the penny lasts, there can be no daily press for the middle or working class. The Dissenters have no daily organ for the same reason." An association for promoting the repeal of all taxes on knowledge arose in 1849.

An attempt was made in 1850 to remove the advertisement tax. In 1853 Gladstone opposed its removal, while Cobden, Bright and Disraeli were for the relief. Subsequently, Gladstone reduced it to sixpence; but before the end of 1853, the tax was no more. The paper duty was reduced in 1836, but not abolished till June 12th, 1861, when the Penny Daily could be issued. The newspaper stamp duty ceased by law June 15th, 1855.

A few words may be added as to Press liberty in other lands.

The United States Constitution of 1776 declared against restriction of the rights of freedom of speech and of the Press. In 1873, however, the printing of obscene literature was prohibited. In France, the law of 1559 decreed death for printing without authority; and in 1626 the same penalty was inflicted for a book against State or Faith. In 1810, sureties replaced the Censorship. The liberty of the Press was suspended July 1830; and many papers were suppressed by the laws of 1835, 1852, 1858, and 1866. By the law of October 27th, 1870, Press offences were to be submitted to a jury.

Germany had its Censor by the Diet of Spire, 1529; but paper licenses and police supervision, in 1819. No Censorship now exists there, though the law of 1874 requires the name of the editor to be printed. Holland has had a free Press since 1815; Belgium, since 1831; Sweden, since 1814; and Switzerland, from 1848. Portugal had the freedom closed when the Inquisition arose.

Austria had severe laws in 1808, when all private printing presses were forbidden. Two Censors were appointed in 1810, but this power ceased in 1863. Denmark condemned the State libeller to prison for life in 1668, but has had no Censor since 1849. The Italian law of 1848 requires the place and name of a printing office. Press offences are tried by a jury of twelve. Russia's law of 1863 removed the Censor in St. Petersburg or Moscow, if the publication did not exceed a certain number of pages. The Censor returned in 1881. There are many annoying and destructive regulations effecting newspapers there, and Government forwards secret instructions, when it is thought necessary, or as warnings, to any of the editors.

## EARLY PRESS STRUGGLES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

ALTHOUGH, in 1787, the first fleet bound for the Australian shores carried a printing press, with all needful appliances for a printing office, no use was made of this valuable convenience during the government of Captain Phillip. The reason was sufficiently obvious: there was not an individual in the colony who could make use of the type.

Among the civil and military officials, no one had assumed, even as an amateur, the rôle of a printer. Among the sailors there was the same ignorance of the Black Art. In the early years of New South Wales, no printer had the folly or misfortune to be conveyed thither in penal servitude. It was not until the reign of Captain Hunter, nearly ten years after the foundation of Sydney, that an erring member of an English "chapel" was discovered, and set to work upon the "composing stick."

His duty was to frame the Government Orders and Proclamations in orthodox type, by which a large and readable number of them could be distributed, to the advantage of many who had pored in vain over the manuscript information affixed to trees and posts. Yet even Governor Hunter dreamed not of an ordinary Newspaper appearing in the Kangaroo Land. This only made its appearance under the rule of Governor King.

### "THE SYDNEY GAZETTE."

The first Paper came out on Saturday, March 5th, 1803, more than fifteen years after the rise of the colony. For a description of that remarkable paper, the reader must pardon citation from the writer's previous colonial publications:—

"When I saw (in Sydney) the first issue, dated March 5th, 1803, I could not but regard it as a faithful historical exponent of the early times. It was very badly printed on four pages of foolscap paper. It bore, at the top of the first page, its name, the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, with a very rude little wood engraving, representing a ship with a Union Jack, and an allegorical female figure seated on the shore. It gave the date of the commencement of the colony, 1788. Around the picture these words were written, 'Thus we Hope to Prosper.'"

It was declared to be published by authority, by George Howe. The address of the printing editor was as follows:—

"Innumerable as the obstacles were which threatened to oppose our undertaking, yet we are happy to affirm that they were not insurmountable. The utility of a PAPER in the COLONY, as it must open a source of solid information, will, we hope, be universally seen and acknowledged. We have courted the assistance of the Ingenious and Intelligent. . . . We open no channel to political discussion or personal animadversion. Information is our only Purpose; that acknowledged, we shall consider that we have done our duty, in an exertion to merit the Approbation of the Public, and to ensure a liberal Patronage to the SYDNEY GAZETTE."

Official advertisements occur upon the first page. One notifies the receiving granaries at Parramatta and the Hawkesbury. Another is so connected with a bit of colonial history that it may be quoted:—

"The Governor having permitted Mr. Robert Campbell to land 4,000 gallons of spirits, for the domestic use of the Inhabitants, from the Castle of Good Hope, it will be divided in the following proportions, viz.: For the Officers on the Civil Establishment (including Superintendents and Store keepers), 1,000 gallons; For Naval and Military Commissioned Officers, 1,000 gallons; For the Licensed People, 1,000 gallons; To be distributed to such Persons as the Governor may think proper to grant Permits to, 1,000 gallons."

The "Notice to Correspondents" runs thus: "Two Slip Boxes will be put up in the course of the ensuing Week (one in front of the Spring Stores at Sydney, the other in a Window of the Court House, Parramatta), for the Reception of such Articles of Information as Persons who are possessed of the means may think proper to contribute."

The arrival of the largest ship yet seen in the harbour, the *Castle of Good Hope*, 1,000 tons, is duly chronicled. It is added, "Her passing through Bass's Straits, instead of going round Van Diemen's Land, considerably shortened her passage, and saved many cows."

Among items of news, we learn market prices, the account of a fight, an accident, a wife-selling at Manchester, and of several public executions. The editor had heard that "Religion is proceeding with a most rapid influence among the first Societies of Paris." Ships were neither fast nor frequent then, as the latest intelligence from England to Sydney, in March, 1803, is the story of a great fire at Woolwich, upon the 20th of May, 1802.

The printer, Robert Howe, was born at St. Kitts, in the West Indies, 1770, worked as a printer in London, went to Australia in 1800, and died in Sydney May 11th, 1821. In the obituary notice, it is recorded of his paper, the *Sydney Gazette*, "which was founded, *pro bono publico*, in adversity, and carried on for the first seven years under that goading penury, from which when nearly spent, it at length emerged by the Providential intervention of His Majesty's present Government." The Government aid alluded to was a salary of £60.

It may be interesting to collect some opinions and statements respecting this leader of the Australian Press.

O'Hara, in 1816, left this testimony: "Besides being in a manner necessary for the promulgation of the Acts of Government, this publication has been found a great source of information and rational amusement to the settlers and other inhabitants, having been conducted not only with an attention to good morals, but in many instances with no small degree of original talent."

Mr. Bennett, the colonial historian, has said: "It was a very small journal, printed with worn-out type, on very coarse paper. Being under the strictest censorship, it did not attempt to discuss public matters. Officials of all grades, when mentioned at all, were spoken of in terms of the most fulsome flattery. The state of Sydney was then so exceptional, that freedom of discussion was, perhaps, not only inexpedient, but impossible. There were but two classes, those who ruled, and those who obeyed."

The editor of *Howe's Weekly Commercial Express*, May 2nd, 1825, wrote: "We have to express our best acknowledgments to the gentleman who was so kind as to allow us the transient perusal of the first volume of the *Sydney Gazette*, which afforded us considerable interest, as they possess the tendency of assisting new journalists to penetrate into the primitive state of this advancing colony."

The *New South Wales Magazine* of August, 1833, spoke of it as "a journal which has maintained its ground to the present day. At the outset, and for many years afterwards, the *Gazette* was chiefly occupied with the official orders and notifications of Government. This circumstance at once stamped it with a degree of respectability, and secured for it as wide a circulation as the country could support. But though thus patronised 'By Authority,' the ingenious publisher had to contend with many difficulties, and was often driven to straits from which nothing but his determined activity and perseverance could possibly have extricated him. A ship or two per annum was the only link which connected the mother country and her distant daughter. Nor was there anything like a regularly established trade or commerce. To none was this poverty-stricken market a cause of greater embarrassment than to our worthy Father of Types. His press, his letters, his ink, his paper, and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, were ever and anon in woeful need of being recruited. But he had nothing but chance, and his own dexterous contrivances, to trust to. Many an anecdote have we heard, from his son and successor, of the predicaments and hair-breadth escapes that long chequered his career, and of the adroitness with which he made the best of such up-and-down circumstances. He struggled bravely with them, and he mastered them. For eighteen years he continued to tug at the oar, till the last enemy of our race dismissed him from his toils."

Barton's *Literature in New South Wales*, 1866, has this account:—

"No. 1, Saturday, 5th March. Afterwards on Sundays. In 1825 published twice a week; in 1827, daily, subsequently three times a week; in 1842 it died." He adds, "Difficulties great in early years; little communication with England; paper and ink ran short; paper of all colours used; little original writing. Howe died in 1821, succeeded by son Robert; drowned few years afterwards. Rev. Ralph Mansfield next editor; then Rev. H. Carmichael. Gave offence to proprietors by commenting on officials' salaries; dismissed; brought action; received £150 damages. Next editor, O'Shaughnessy, at first a convict assigned to Howe. Then Watt, another convict. Afterwards, a Mr. Cavenagh. Curious squabble between him and Mr. Wentworth. Cavenagh brought action for libel, and received £225 damages. No one was more given to the use of rough language than Mr. Wentworth, and it occasions some surprise to find that he felt it so acutely when applied to himself."

The Rev. Dr. Lang, a fierce combatant, had some very hard things to say against the *Gazette*, when Watt was acting editor. That clever, but not too particular, member of the Press subsequently married the widow of Mr. Howe. Getting into fresh trouble, he was sent to Port Macquarie by Government, where he was drowned in trying to cross a creek.

The *Gazette* was not only subject to official rule, but was favoured by high patronage. The Lieutenant-Governor Foveaux, by a *Public Order*, December 24th, 1809, aided the poor printer to get in his accounts, saying:—

"It having been represented that in consequence of numerous sums being in arrears to the Publisher of the *Sydney Gazette* and *New South Wales Advertiser*, the publication thereof is threatened with interruption unless those arrears be immediately paid off, his Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, is pleased to direct that the stores at the various settlements be always open for the receipt of grain to the amount of sums due upon that account. And as it is his Honour's wish to strengthen







as much as possible the prospect of its uninterrupted continuance, he is further pleased to recommend punctuality in the discharge of subscriptions, &c., without which the publisher must always be exposed to inconveniences, against which he has been under the necessity of complaining that his circumstances are unable to contend."

The older *New South Wales Magazine* judiciously remarked: "Even the localities of our early printing are worthy of being remembered. The first office was in a small apartment at Government House; the next was a humble building on the site now occupied by the residence of the Assistant Colonial Secretary, in Macquarie Place, where the whole apparatus had, on one occasion, a narrow escape from being destroyed by a discharge of the electric fluid; and the last (in the life time of Mr. George Howe) was a long building stretching from George Street into Sydney Cove, erected by the Printer for the purpose."

Mr. Howe himself has a notice of the first locale, when narrating the circumstances of Governor Bligh's arrest by the soldiery, January 26th, 1808. He told the readers of the *Gazette*: "We were in the midst of the search made after the unfortunate Governor, and were obliged to give admittance to Lieutenant Laycock to the little Printing Office, which was in those antique times attached as an appendage to Government House. The Lieutenant, after examining the loft (in descending from which he had nearly dislocated the principal joints in his body), discovered that no Governor was there."

Howe's father and brother long conducted the official press of St. Kitts, and he worked for some time in the office of *The Times* before going to Port Jackson. He continued the management of the *Gazette* to his death. His son succeeded as proprietor, printer, and editor. He reigned in peace for three years, and then a formidable rival appeared in the *Australian*, under the able Dr. Wardell. As one has remarked: "The public, knowing how fearful was the odds between a Cambridge scholar and a young man educated in the colony, expected nothing less than that the latter would be crushed to atoms. But he mounted with the storm."

A marble tablet, set up in the *Gazette* office by the son, bears this inscription: "In memory of George Howe, a Creole, of St. Kitts, born 1769, died May 11th, 1821, aged 52. He introduced into Australia the art of Printing; Instituted the *Sydney Gazette*; And was the First Government Printer; Beside which his Charity knew no bounds." No monument was set over his grave.

We now turn to look at some of the principal circumstances connected with the early struggles this early paper, noting some curious bits of colonial history related in its pages.

The *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* of March, 1803, and declared to be "Published by Authority," continued to bear one appearance of heading till Sunday, August 28th 1804, when the royal arms—the approved lion and unicorn, fighting for the crown—took the place of the original oval frontispiece.

It was high time that the ancient wood engraving should be released. Rudely executed at the beginning, a succession of impressions had so reduced its artistic qualifications, that only a dim likeness of the motto, "Thus we Hope to Prosper," surmounting the picture, remained. The figure of the Genius of New South Wales seated upon a bag of wool (?) had lost its outline, as well as grace. The pickaxes and shovels were indistinguishable. The farmer driving his horse at plough was utterly obscured. The Governor's palace, the fort, the windmill, the trees on shore, seemed lost in the water of Port Jackson. The ship, having the advantage of a bit of clear sky, managed to display its single sail with a flag forward as broad as the flowing sheet. The date, 1788, upon the bale, had gone with the rest to the shades.

When His Majesty's arms appeared in the place of the pictorial allegory, the words of the paper's title came forth in bolder type, though not much improved in legibility. But the royal arms suffered a partial eclipse, or rather a reduction in size, on Sunday, March 3rd, 1805, two years after commencement. The sentence, "Published by Authority," had been boldly paraded while the oval frontispiece struggled to be visible, but came out in small and modest italics afterwards. The final words continued to be—"Printed at Sydney; and Advertisements received by G. Howe."

From the issue of March 5th, 1803, it appeared each week upon Saturday. But on April 17th, 1803, a change took place, Saturday giving place to Sunday as the day of publication. The State reasons for this day alteration are not afforded by the Governor, nor by the editor and printer.

No. 2, Saturday, March 12th, 1803, the earliest copy to be found by the author in London, and to be seen at the Record Office, has a sale by Auction, under the hammer of S. Lord, father of the venerable and much-respected colonist of Tasmania, New South Wales, and Queensland, Simeon Lord, Esq. Mariners are warned of a rock in Bass's Straits. News comes of ships and crops, the best means of sowing wheat, vine growing, &c. Extracts are given from London papers and the *Asiatic Mirror*. Peaches sold from 3d. to 6d. per dozen; and melons from 4s. to 5s. Potatoes were up to 12s. 6d. per 100 lbs.; and full-grown fowls, 3s. each.

We are informed therein that the Sydney "Rocks," then the most crowded part of the town, "would certainly be a choice spot for a TUMBLING ACADEMY, as the pupil might indulge himself with a SOMERSET without any violent exertion." A story is given of the death of an Italian beggar at Shadwell, aged ninety-five, who had married thirteen times, without any wife favouring him with issue. Though Italian music was then the rage in England, we are assured that "British music triumphs only in the field."

On the fourth, and last page, of this foolscap sheet newspaper, is a poem:—

#### A RUM EFFECT.

"My wife's so very bad," cry'd Phill,  
I fear she'll never hold it,  
She **KEEPS** her bed.' 'Mine's worse,' said Will,  
'The jade this morning **SOLD** it.'"

March 26th has the notice of Captain McArthur having requested the Governor to send eight fleeces to England for the inspection of Sir Joseph Banks. The back of the gaol was said to be forced through, and the gaoler's cash and clothes stolen.

April 17th, 1803, has a private letter from London, dated August 30th, 1802, announcing the peace proclamation of April 28th; and that "Trade already begins to flourish." The paper notes the opening of St. John's Church, Parramatta, by the Rev. S. Marsden, though the pews were not put up. That issue contained ten advertisements, the first having but four. Government Orders headed the sheet. A settler of Kissing Point, annoyed at his wife forsaking him for a fellow with a wooden leg, "scientifically applied a noose to his neck."

The authority for the first religious meeting of Roman Catholics in Sydney is declared by the *Gazette* of April 24th, as an "extension of liberal Toleration, from the Piety and Benevolence of our most Gracious Sovereign." An "Inquisitive Observer" regrets, on May 1st, that "from the want of a staple, our commerce cannot be supported on the principles of barter, but importation, until an export can be provided, must necessarily drain our colony of its specie."

A Masonic meeting was secretly held, as the paper, May 22nd, informs us, at the house of Serjeant Whittle. News of it coming to the magistrate, the house was surrounded by the police, and the assembled therein taken up. After serious reproof, they were discharged, as having no "wilful intention to disturb the Public Peace." It is also stated: "On Sunday last, the Roman Catholic Congregation assembled for the first time at Sydney."

A farm of 94 acres, in the township of Parramatta, was sold, May 26th, for 177 guineas. The state of the barometer and thermometer for every day in May, at Sydney, is given June 5th. A subscriber mentions that "some of the principal streets in Sydney are rendered impassable after dark, save with the risque of breaking an arm or a leg, by numerous pits and hollows."

In a June number occurs the advertisement, "For Sale on board the 'Bridgewater,' the under-mentioned goods." These were cheeses in cases, 2s. per lb.; hams, 2s. 9d. lb.; soap, 86s. cwt.; Irish linen, 1s. 9d. to 8s. 3d. yd.; earthenware table sets, £6 10s. and £12 12s. One trader offers six months' credit on goods over £20. July 3rd records a number of people taken up for strolling through the streets in service time on Sunday. Rosetta Stabler notified her opening on the *Rocks* a "new Eating House, victuals dressed in the English way."

The poor printer came out with this advertisement in July: "Wanted, any quantity of Spanish Paper, which will be treated for by G. Howe, Lower End of Pitt's Row." Was he flying to a supply from Spain in despair of non-arrival from England? Assuredly, the foolscap, short in length, ragged in edge, coarse in texture, bad in colour, was at least as good as were his type and ink. The pressman was hardly so overwhelmed to bring out his four-paged little weekly as to pay so little heed to his work, unless he were the confederate of an optician, or a foe to the fine arts.

Literature was then valuable enough to occasion this advertisement, July 16th: "Old English Baron, 1 vol. large 8vo. Any person who may have borrowed the above book from the house of Simon Lord, is requested to return it immediately."

The printer, getting no paper, humbly appealed, saying that "so small a compliment as a single ream will be purchased." How long would these 480 sheets keep the *Gazette* afloat! As the Spanish paper advertisement did not appear the week after, we may presume the ream was obtained, though the call was again sounded August 7th. Better still, a paragraph notifies that "The Old English Baron, advertised in our last, returned to his quarters on Monday; and we understood his presence was admitted as an apology for his absconding without leave of absence." But the first volume of a more important work, well appreciated in those times—"The Old Bailey Calendar,"—which was borrowed from a house in South Row, had no such prompt return. In consequence, the advertisement, a fortnight after, offered a reward of ten shillings for information as to its whereabouts, as such a light to society could not long be hidden.

A house in Parramatta was sold in August for £14. Mr. Cox sold 12 cows and calves at prices from £27 to £79 16s.; a bull, £86; seven horses, £357; twenty wethers, £44; an ox, £14. Mr. Driver could then advertise: "Capital writing foolscap paper, and good coarse ditto." Yet the next week we see: "Spanish Paper. Any quantity will be immediately purchased by the Printer of this Paper. Gentlemen and others, having such to part with, however small the complement, are requested to favour him with notice thereof." Some one then "wanted to purchase a Hebrew Lexicon, and an Italian Dictionary;" another sought two odd volumes, to complete his Blackstone's Commentaries. That weekly paper contained fourteen advertisements.

The return of Flinders in a six-oared cutter to Sydney from the wreck of the "Porpoise" is recorded September 11th, when the Spanish paper was still in request. In October is the advertisement of "Earthenware Manufactory, Pitt's Row, Sydney. Samuel Skinner respectfully acquaints his Friends and the Public at large that he has, by assiduity and perseverance, brought to a state of perfection in the colony the above very useful and essential branch of manufacture."

A publication is noticed October 9th: "The plan lately adopted of a Sydney District Journal, containing a list of Housekeepers, together with the names of every lodger in each of the houses, must be deemed a useful regulation, tending considerably to strengthen the arm of the Police." Notices occur of warning against trust to a wife, "as she has thought proper to elope from me."

In the Record Office collection of *Sydney Gazettes*, a great gap appears between October 23rd, 1833, and August 26th, 1804. Civil Court intelligence, cotton growing, and ship news take up the space of the latter paper. Particulars are given of the stormy voyage of the "Ocean" from Port Phillip to the Derwent, in thirty-two days. A man was respited when in the hands of the hangman. There were seventeen advertisements. The paper had still four pages foolscap, but of smaller size than before, eleven, instead of over twelve, inches long, though running to twelve in 1805. The weather was duly chronicled. A lady correspondent assumed the name of "Incognita."

In October 7th, 1804, the printer expressed his readiness to receive information concerning some unreturned borrowed books; among these being the works of Pope, Plutarch, Buffon, and Voltaire. A fortnight after, one advertised: "Wanted to purchase, a few spelling books, which if procured are designed to be distributed gratuitously among the children of a remote settlement." The repetition of the appeal meant the scarcity of spelling books.

The first Australian Fête in "commemoration of the impiety" of Guy Fawkes was referred to in the issue of November 11th, 1804, wherein we are told that "with such aversion did the little multitude regard the object of disgust, that impati at of his crimes, and irritated by the unmoved muscles of the culprit's countenance, a hundred willing hands were offered to rid the world of such a hardened unrepenting sinner. Vengeance, unable longer to brook delay, the whole procession before dark closed at once upon the criminal, who in an instant was torn limb from limb."

Another request that borrowed books might be returned is offered December 16th, 1804. These were "Paradise Lost," Sterne's "Sentimental Journey," Thomson's "Seasons," Hervey's "Meditations," and the "Newgate Calendar." That paper records the establishment of Port Dalrymple colony on October 11th. Larken's Colonial Brewery announced beers prepared on the British system.

On Sunday, January 13th, 1805, the printer is again hard up for paper, saying: "Wanted to purchase, any quantity of Demy, Medium, Folio Post, or Foolscap Paper, for the use of printing; and which, if from any accident from damp or slight mildew, rendered unfit for writing, will answer the purpose. Ready money will be paid on delivery; and those who have it in their power to contribute to the supply, are earnestly requested to favour the Printer with notice thereof, specifying at the

same time the quantity and price." The good man is easily to be pleased. It made no difference to him what size or character the paper might be, nor even if it were useless for letter writing; anything was welcome that could be made to receive the impress, however illegible, of his type. Want of the letter "e" occasioned many blanks in 1805.

In that month Chambers's "Cyclopædia," 4 vols., sold for £6 13s. at auction. Government Orders occupied just half the issue of January 27th, 1805, at which time "so great a scarcity of soap has seldom been known," it being a favour to sell at 300 per cent. A stage wagon was advertised to run from Sydney to the Hawkesbury in sixteen hours, at 7s. 6d. for a passenger. The natives gave much trouble with their spears early in 1805. Hearing that the natives wanted to make peace, the Rev. S. Marsden boldly went into the woods to a conference.

On May 12th, 1805, we read: "Wanted to purchase, the first thirty numbers of the *Sydney Gazette*, for which, in good preservation, a liberal price will be paid in dollars." The export trade of England for the year 1803 was declared to be £40,100,870, which amount might be profitably compared with the export of Australia for 1889. A reward of five guineas was offered in June for news of a borrowed "History of Corsica." Mr. Crook's boarding school at Parramatta was advertised for pupils at £27 a year cash, but £30 in wheat or pork. The Governor's permission was then requisite for a man to set up as a blacksmith in Sydney.

A literary venture is noted November 3rd, 1805: "Colonial Pocket Almanack. (Printed by permission of His Excellency). G. Howe begs to remind the Public that at the end of the ensuing week the lists of the subscribers to the New South Wales Pocket Almanack will be closed." Price to subscribers, one dollar, or 5s. sterling. At an auction sale in November were submitted to competition books enough to form a modest library. There were twenty volumes, quarto, of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," the works of Shakespeare, Buffon, Rapin, Hume, Mirabeau, Coxe, Milton, Cæsar, &c. "Payment to be made within a month in approved Bills or Copper Currency."

Number 149, January 5th, 1806, contains but two pages. This small supply of paper continued till March 16th, when the four-paged issue was resumed. On June 8th, the crowding out called for one column slip, one printed side, to be thrown in; but the word "Supplement" occurs on the single column slip of August 24th. Yet two weeks after, the two pages again appear. Then the paper came short of the usual width by an inch and a quarter, the length being short of the foot. A coarse sugar wrapping supply succeeded, to the manifest loss of the reader's temper: the paper was 12 in. by 8½.

The couple of pages return September 7th, 1806, and, with one week's interval, the same is seen, upon a paper somewhat improved part of the time, until Sunday, April 12th, 1807, number 213, after which the well-tried printer takes a rest: for May 15th, 1808, is but number 228. Then, though only two pages are presented, the paper has been enlarged to 14 inches, with corresponding extension of width, the three columns of the page having more elbow room. Both type and paper show little improvement.

January 1st, 1809, No. 261, still displays the two pages, which very limited space continues with an interval of four pages, on account of increased Government Orders, July 14th, 1810, until a recurrence of four pages on December 22nd and 29th, 1810. But the paper had grown, in some cases, to 15 inches in length and nearly 10 in breadth, but not so heavy in quality. The type-founder had been rendering his aid, and the reader could recover his equanimity.

January 5th, 1806, has the printing notice to subscribers, of "the publication of so much of the Almanack as could be got ready." Dr. Jamieson had then an appeal to parents on their neglecting "inoculating their children with the Cow Pock, in order to prevent the fatality which must attend their having the natural Small Pox." On February 2nd, "all those who stand indebted to the concern of Bass and Bishop are requested forthwith to discharge the same to Thomas Jamison, Esq., a final settlement becoming absolutely necessary." Captain Bishop was dead, and the adventurous Mr. Bass was never heard of after his capture by Spaniards in Chili.

The Almanack had need of an apology, February 16th: "That as the completion of the publication was delayed by the want of paper only, we have at length succeeded in the endeavour to obviate the difficulty by the purchase of a sufficient quantity of octavo post paper." Another apology for delay came out in May. The scarcity of tea is shown in Souchong being 30s., and Hyson 42s. per lb.

The printer, having opened a stationery shop, advertised in June: "Any Gentleman or other person possessing any quantity of Foolscap or other Paper not inferior to this in size (12 by 7½ in.), may receive in exchange for the same an equivalent complement of superfine thick Letter Post." The latter did not suit for the *Gazette*.

Government was called upon, June 8th, to suppress "the dangerous evaporation of so malevolent a spirit" as the product of illegal stills. Warnings are given to the issuers of promissory notes that their figures are often altered to suit convenience of certain parties. Then we have, "Lost, a Promissory Note of Hand, No. 371, drawn and signed by Henry Keble for £10 copper coin, and made payable to William Chapman." The death of Pitt was announced July 13th, 1806; the arrival of Governor Bligh, on August 10th; and the Battle of Trafalgar, September 7th.

On September 14th, Mr. John Lewin advertised: "Proposals for publishing by subscription, 'The Birds of New South Wales, with their Natural History.'" The work was to be sent to London for publication; subscribers to pay one guinea down, on giving their names, and another guinea on receiving the quarto volume. The author declared he had been eight years collecting the materials for the book.

The proprietor and editor was compelled, in November, 1806, to add to his limited resources, and advertised as follows: "Evening School. To open on Monday, the 17th instant. Hours of attendance from half-past 5 to half-past 8. G. Howe is desirous of receiving under Tuition a few Pupils to be instructed in Simple, Vulgar, and Decimal Arithmetic, Mensuration, many useful Arithmetical Abbreviations, Writing (if necessary), and the Grammar of the English Tongue upon the Principles of Drs. Lowth, Johnson, Priestly, and other celebrated writers who have united their efforts in improving the Grammatical structure of their own beautiful and comprehensive Language, which every Englishman ought to be acquainted with, but few attain, that have not had the advantage of a classical education. Persons desirous of further explanation are requested to favour the Advertiser with a line."

He offered twenty shillings reward for news of twelve to fifteen numbers of the *Gazette* "taken in a mistake" from his house.

February 8th, 1807, contains the address of Hawkesbury settlers to Governor Bligh, thanking him for unbounded attention, labour, and pains he had ever manifested for the welfare of the colony, "in the dreadful crisis of general calamity in which you found it."

April 5th details a case of pillory, and the remission of the sentence connected with nailing the

ears of the fellow thereto. G. Howe the week after advertised letters for persons in his charge. Little English news could be afforded while the paper was of two pages only.

On May 15th, 1808, Public Orders were issued by the Lieutenant-Governor, through Mr. John Mc Arthur, as secretary to the colony. It was with a joyful heart that the long-silenced newspaper editor broke silence that day thus:—

"We have once more the satisfaction of rendering our services to the Public. We have had repeatedly to lament the necessity of vying with the Cameleon its change of colour, and of being compelled to rival the prophetic son of Oceanus in the frequency of change that has been given to our shape. To necessity we cannot dictate. As servants of the Public, exertion is our duty, and commendation our hoped reward. A supply of paper guarantees the promise of a continuance of this publication, until other arrivals may take place; and should our adverse destinies for any length of time protract so desirable an event, we hope, nevertheless, in all the lively tints with which the Chinese favour us, still to prosecute our labours until relenting fate shall put an end to our vicissitudes. This Paper is printed upon a half sheet of Demy; the pages made up to the very extent of our Press;—And without hesitation we have to observe, that the present two pages, compressed as the matter is, contains fully as much as four pages post folio, to which size we adhered for several months. We have now likewise to remark, that as inactivity is the parent of embarrassment, we find it needful to deviate from the former mode of collecting the subscription money; which will be applied for monthly, instead of quarterly; the terms, *Three shillings* upon delivery of every fourth Paper. And as the price of paper is known to be very exorbitant, we request that all arrears of subscriptions may be paid up in the course of the present month, in order that we may be enabled to take advantage of the first arrival by a first purchase."

He gave a further intimation, saying: "The next *Gazette* will contain the Arrival and Departure of vessels that have taken place since the 30th of August last, from which date the publication has been suspended."

Mr. Cook's "Academy in Sydney on an improved plan" is introduced with the remark: "Education is to mankind what culture is to vegetables." The General Order of August 28th, 1808, relates to those who have been prisoners presuming to appear in court as Advocates. Mr. Lewin notified November 20th, 1808, the early arrival of copies of the first volume on New South Wales birds, and that each successive volume would have eighteen plates. Any person, having the "Ready Reckoner" to sell, is advised on Sunday, Christmas Day, that he will be "treated with liberality" by referring to G. Howe. The editor then returned thanks for the public liberality towards himself.

In these postal days it is odd to read in the *Gazette* of February 5th, 1809: "Lydia Moss, returning from England by the 'Duke of Portland,' begs to inform persons at whose request she took the charge of Letters or Messages to their Friends, that she has brought answers to all such, which she will be happy to communicate at her Residence, at the back of Mr. Reibie's Timber Yard." But on April 30th I. Nicholls announced that his Honour had appointed him "to receive, and attend to the due delivery of, all Letters and Parcels directed to individuals."

Another appeal to lagging subscribers is made March 19th, 1809, "as an opportunity offers of procuring a supply of Paper, which requires their speedy compliance." The *Sydney Gazette* proprietor had an anxious time of it. The death of Govr. P. G. King, at Lower Tooting, Surrey, September 7th, 1808, is duly noticed in the *Gazette* of April 23rd, 1809.

A marvellous educational feat is promised, May 21st, 1809: "Notice to Parents. A child in four months shall be taught from the Alphabet to read the Testament, as correctly as the weakness of childhood will admit, for Five Guineas; only six children can be attended; and when that number shall have agreed to the Terms, the Teacher will commence. Apply to the Printer."

A fresh appeal by the printer came forth April 21st, 1810:—

"The mortifying embarrassments in which the Publisher of this Paper is involved by the non-payment of subscriptions, unfortunately, affords him another opportunity of animadverting on the excessive inattention which has at length fallen with extreme severity upon him. Labouring under reflexions at the present moment from which every thing pleasant is alienated, he ventures to inform the most remiss that with the next *Gazette* they will be furnished with their Accounts written upon the margin, as has been the custom heretofore; the discharge of which Account he respectfully requests may be attended to in the course of the fortnight then next ensuing; when a continued non-compliance of this request will be attributed to the *accidental* overlooking of the Account so intended to be published; to remedy which a List of the Persons above a Twelvemonth in arrear will be *published*, with the sum total of each Account exhibited against its proper name; and if this method also fail, the further supply will cease, and a less delicate mode resorted to for attracting the attention of the negligent."

The poor fellow then calls attention to "the *careless* manner in which Advertisements, which appear to be of some moment to the advertisers themselves, are left for insertion, under promise in many instances of being shortly after called and paid for, but never more attended to." He, therefore, notifies that in future prepayment will be required.

May 19th has the request from George Howe, "that no person will, without a written Order, pay Money or give Credit on my Account to any one but my son Robert Howe." The latter subsequently started a paper in Hobart Town. His father became a collector of other persons' debts in May, 1810.

T. Macqueen, "who has been in the Teaching Line for upwards of 30 years," opening a school in Sydney, advertised, August 4th: "Children will be taught the English language, agreeable to the modern pronunciation, and grammatically, if required."

October 27th contains "Plan and Description of additional New Streets and Lanes in the Town of Sydney, recently formed and named." The streets were Gloucester, Kensington, Argyle, and Elizabeth; and the lanes, Middlesex, Surrey, Essex, Suffolk, and Cornwall. Nearly every paper about this time had letters "to the Printer" upon subjects of morality, farming, gardening, mission to the natives, or such like non-political matters.

1811 shows a development of the *Gazette*. In March, the two-paged issue is 15½ inches by 10½, on thinner and better paper. The *Sydney Gazette Extraordinary* of March 20th, 1811, contains war news from the *Calcutta Gazette*. Four pages came more frequently into view, as advertisements and war news multiplied. April 12th has a notice from the publisher, that "in the course of the ensuing week he will have sufficient leisure to furnish his subscription accounts in Sydney, and to those at a distance, with the next week's paper; after which he doubts not that he will be speedily empowered to make purchase of a supply of paper that now offers. He will be happy to receive either wheat or money."

The vessels having arrived, a post office notice appeared September 7th, 1811, that they had

brought letters for fourteen persons, whose names are advertised by Mr. Nichols, post master, who afterwards tells the public that a sealed letter bag is then kept open for letters home. "The charge of each letter will be 3d., and all that are received entered at the time of such receipt in a Book of Registry kept for that purpose." The dead letter list of October 19th had thirty-nine names.

Another of the printer's trials is chronicled February 1st, 1812: "To subscribers—The last week's Papers did not leave Town till Wednesday, owing to the packets which were sent by a Messenger on horseback on Sunday, being run away with by the horse, who left his rider on the Parramatta Road, and distributed the Papers about the woods of Gommoramorra, from whence they were not recovered, and were of necessity reprinted."

The day of publication was changed back from Sunday to Saturday, agreeably to a public notice, Sunday, February 11th, 1810, the issue of February 17th being on Saturday.

Part of an "elegant assortment" of books and stationery was advertised February 22nd, 1812. Among the former were the "Old English Baron," "The Muse's Bower," "Young Man's Companion," books of arithmetic calculated to assist the teacher, &c. The contractors for the building of the *Rum Hospital*, so called from the payment being in a rum monopoly, declared on May 23rd, 1812, their willingness to receive male stock in payment for spirits.

The almanack for 1813 is advertised October 24th, 1812. The compiler said that as the time and labour expended "could not possibly be defrayed were the circulation four times as large as the population of the colony will admit the hope of, it will be necessary, in order to avoid a loss by unsold copies, that the number printed shall be limited to the number that shall be subscribed for, which will be delivered at half-a-guinea each."

Another literary venture is brought forward in the issue of November 21st, 1812: "A. West most respectfully begs leave to acquaint his Friends and the Public that on Monday, the 30th of November, 1812, he will publish a select collection of beautiful Views in New South Wales, drawn and engraved by Artists of superior ability, resident in this Colony." The set of twelve would cost £3. The plates were 12 inches by 18, and included views of Sydney, the harbour, native camp, Parramatta, and Botany Bay.

We are informed, December 5th, 1812, that ten merino rams fetched 200 guineas, and that "several coats made of the wool of New South Wales entirely are now in the colony, and are of a most excellent quality."

January 2nd, 1813, ushers in this notice: "We now enter upon the Eleventh Volume of the *Sydney Gazette*, and design upon all occasions, when a press of information shall require it, to extend the Publication to four pages of the present increased size (16 by 10½ inches), two of which will be found very sufficient at other times."

The great increase of size came August 14th, 1813, when the page was 18½ by 10½ inches, on decent paper, for the period, and with readable type. But, in spite of the printer's promise, or hope, the four-paged issues were few and far between all through 1814, 1815, and 1816, an occasional extra page only appearing as a supplement, generally devoted to war news.

Mr. West intimated to the public, January 9th, 1813, that his views would remain at £3 per set of twelve, till the first of February, after which the charge would be raised to £4 10s.

The paper of January 16th, 1813, praises "the deference to the good old times," in the celebration of Twelfth Night by a family, when the cake was pronounced equal to one from Cornhill. The merry dance in George Street "abated not" says the Sydney reporter, "until Aurora with reluctant pace announced the near approach of Phœbus to the Eastern horizon." The number of newspapers then was declared to be 54 in London, and 114 in the rest of England.

With the light of the present, it is odd to read, February 13th, 1813, an extract from a London paper, October 1st, 1812: "Prussia is annexed to France." The first Australian fair, held by order, was recorded, March 13th. There were but forty-four persons on Norfolk Island in June. Subscriptions for the building of a new Court House in Sydney included £40 from Simeon Lord, and £30 from Rev. S. Marsden. News then arrived that last May "a mermaid was distinctly seen about a mile from Exmouth."

January 1st, 1814, gives from the *Boston Gazette* eight reasons for America's declaration of war against England; and Sydney letter writers were informed that a letter bag was then open at the post office, as a certain ship for England was expected to sail in the course of the month.

The paper for November 26th, 1814, was 18½ inches in length, but of two pages. An *Order* of that date said: "The Rev. Mr. Cowper being indisposed, there will be no Divine Service at Sydney to-morrow."

January 7th, 1815, intimates that "The Almanack for 1815 is selling at the *Gazette* Office, price 5s. currency;" and "also published, a comprehensive Spelling Book, on so plain a principle as to require very little trouble either to the Teacher or Scholar, interspersed with familiar phrases and lessons. Price 5s. currency."

Much news appeared February 11th, 1815, enabling the publisher to write: "Solicitous of rendering to our Readers every information in our power, relative to the state of Europe, we have in this *Gazette* made such selections from the British journals as appear most worthy of attention." Five columns out of eight, in a two-paged issue, were devoted to this subject. Colonial news lay in twelve lines, advertisements occupying the remaining space.

On complaints of non-arrival of *Gazettes* at Parramatta, the editor stated, August 19th, 1815: "The first disappointment was occasioned by the failure of the common carrier, who, it appears, did not go up at all that week, but gave the papers to some other person to take up for him; and last week they were sent up by the Monday's passage boat, as no earlier convenience offered."

The editor, September 16th, 1815, declared he must "forbear any remarks" on the account he gave of Bonaparte's return to Paris. The death of Mr. Judge-Advocate Bent occasioned the paper of November 11th, 1815, to appear in mourning. We have then copied from the *Times* of November 29th, 1814, the story of the great discovery by the Saxon Koenig:—"Our journal of this day presents to the public the practical results of the greatest improvement connected with printing since the discovery of the art itself. That the magnitude of the invention may be justly appreciated by its effects, we shall inform the public, that after the letters are placed by the compositors, and enclosed in what is called the forme, little more remains for man to do than to attend upon and watch this unconscious agent in its operations. The machine is then merely supplied with paper, itself places the forme, inks, adjusts the paper to the forme newly inked, stamps the sheet, which itself again distributes, to meet the ensuing sheet now advancing for impression; and the whole of these complicated acts is performed with such a velocity and simultaneousness of movement, that not less than 1,100 sheets are impressed in one hour."

Wellington's despatch from Waterloo, June 19th, 1815, is thus heralded, January 20th, 1816, by the *Public Order*, that "His Excellency orders and directs that the following extracts from the London *Gazettes* shall be made public throughout this Colony by the medium of a *Sydney Gazette Extraordinary*." This gives a list of thirty-six officers killed at Waterloo, notes the capture of Paris, and narrates the surrender of Bonaparte. The editor has no observation to make upon the news, which crowded out other matter for the two pages.

The following week the printer presented this for an epitaph :—

"If Heaven is pleased, when sinners cease to sin  
If Hell is pleased, when sinners enter in,  
If Earth is pleased, when ridden of a knave,  
Then all are pleased—Napoleon's in his grave."

On March 4th, 1816, is this remarkable Order of the Governor :—

"Whereas, on the days of Thursday and Friday last, copies of a PAPER, usually called a PIPE, were circulated in the town of Sydney, one being thrown over the wall in George Street, opposite to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's House; another at the Provost-Marshal's; another at Mr. McArthur's; and another outside the wall of the General Hospital, opposite the quarter occupied by D'Arcy Wentworth, Esq., each paper separately addressed to the above Persons, and containing a false, malicious, and scurrilous attack upon the character of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor."

A reward of £900 was offered by the officers for the discovery of the offender, and the Governor offered a free pardon to any convict giving information leading to that discovery.

A supplement came out with the issue of August 3rd, 1816, giving the trial of Marshal Ney. He was found guilty by 159 to 1, his death sentence was carried by 139 to 21. The triumph of Christianity in Tahiti, through the victory of Pomare over the heathen warriors, is noticed in October.

A public meeting, upon the establishment of a bank, was held December 5th, 1816, when the editor had no hesitation in saying that the three public meetings had "given birth, efficacy, and stability to the establishment of the New South Wales Bank."

The year 1817 presents a four-paged series, though the paper falls back in size to the old 15 inches by 10, of a poor character, that detracts from the printer's art. The weekly issue is continued after that style through 1817, 1818, and 1819. A *Gazette Extraordinary* of June 19th, 1819, records the death of the Queen, November 17th, 1818. For the death of the Princess Charlotte, November 6th, 1817, the paper of April 4th, the year after, appeared in mourning. Non-political letters to the editor afford the public some knowledge of colonial movements.

An advertisement, February 15th, 1817, again declares the intention of the publisher to insist upon pre-payment of advertisements. All such, he notifies, "for the sale of goods by auction are charged five shillings for the property, if not exceeding 12 lines, and 3d. per line for all above." That paper contained no less than fifty-four advertisements, nineteen of which were notices, required by law, of the intention of parties to leave the colony.

Among the latter notices of Sydney departures is one affecting the well-known John Pascoe Fawkner, of Port Phillip story, then without the second name: "John Fawkner, junior, proceeding to the Derwent by an early opportunity, requests all claims may be presented."

Temperance readers might note, April 12th, 1817, a letter affirming that "sugar is the only foundation of spirit; it can be obtained from saccharine matter alone—nothing else is known in nature which will produce it."

The printer's necessities were often the public's opportunity for extra news, in such a notice as this: "Being necessarily compelled to detain the publication of this Paper, we have further to announce that," &c.

Notwithstanding all the care taken by the printer to keep out of trouble, one of his correspondents, *Philo Free*, made too free with the reputation of the chaplain, the Rev. S. Marsden. The trial of this first charge of libel in Australia took place October 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 1817. The secretary of the Governor, Mr. J. T. Campbell, was charged as the *Philo Free*. The unhappy printer expressed his regret at not having read the offending article more carefully before publication.

"The Court," says the reporter, "went through the whole of this complicated enquiry in all its various headings and stages with great patience, and the most solemn and cautious circumspection; and on the third day pronounced their verdict, finding the defendant guilty of having permitted a public letter to be printed in the *Sydney Gazette*, which tends to vilify the public character of the prosecutor, as the Agent for the Missionary Societies for propagating the Gospel in the South Seas." This was the verdict, and judgment was deferred until the Tuesday following.

When the printer went up for judgment, he was informed that it could not be given, as the prosecutor had withdrawn the case. The defendant was then told by the Court that he could leave.

Mr. George Howe was not satisfied, and on November 1st wrote "A Respectful Address from the Printer to a liberal Public," occupying over two columns. He defended himself from the charge of any complicity with the libel, showing the hard swearing employed against him, and the influence of a man who had been discharged from his printing office. One, a Mr. Jones, declared on the Wednesday that he could not believe the printer upon his oath, but confessed on Thursday that he had been misled. "The censure pronounced upon me," said Mr. Howe, "was not privately communicated but publicly proclaimed—and public, also, must be my vindication. If any man had uttered such an expression with respect to Mr. Jones as he did in regard to me, would he not have had good reason to complain of it?"

The next week's paper had no further remarks upon the trial. A letter-writer, *Civis*, was eloquent only upon agriculture. English news continues to occupy most of the space, unless a stirring criminal trial called for public attention.

A paper mill was reported at Sydney in May, 1818. A love poem occupied nearly three columns of a paper that month. May 30th had a Bank notice that, from the 15th of June next, "no orders will be received or paid at this Bank for sums less than Five Pounds sterling, unless they are for balances of accounts."

A commercial note of May 30th, 1818, runs: "Wanted, for the use of the Government Factory at Parramatta, a quantity of Wool, for which good blankets and woollen cloth will be given in exchange on delivery of the wool."

The first paper of January, 1819, is thus heralded: "We this day commence the seventeenth volume of the *Sydney Gazette*, and trust that under the influence of a benign auspices, and the support of a liberal Public, it may always find a rank among the more useful institutions of this yet



infant, though rapidly advancing, colony, and which, upon the 28th of this first month of the year, is aged precisely two-and-thirty."

A pathetic appeal comes before us, March 20th, 1819:—

"To Subscribers who have received their accounts furnished, and after repeated applications, yet leave them unpaid.—The Publisher begs to state that the accounts exceeding one year will be sued for; and hopes that this necessary arrangement will not disturb the inclination still to receive the *Gazette*. Its expenses must be known to be great, and that without equivalent payments it cannot be supported. In England, newspapers are paid for before they quit the office; and here, we are told, after years of patient forbearance, that the accounts furnished shall be liquified when the person to whom presented *shall think proper to pay*. This is insult. We might be capable of supporting injury; but this mockery is more than we can submit to. Men of sense and feeling do not act so; and without sense or feeling, what is the use of man? Is not the Printer of a paper, who conducts its very great expenditure throughout the year, to be paid at any time? Dreadful conception! And is he to apply for payment like a prostrate pauper, or as a man seeking for his rights? Dreadfully contrasted imagination! Have we ever solicited a subscription? No. Can we afford our papers gratis? No. The office expenses are great, and must be weekly paid. A paper must, and can, only be supported by the public acquiescence; but this acquiescence must not be tame; it must be active; and, as all things that are to end must have a beginning, the liberal Public will esteem the present *Gazette* as a rudiments to a more enlightened prospect. The *Gazette* has not yet arrived to the age of twenty-one, but from its noble patronage would almost appear to be verging upon twenty-two. Now, generous Subscribers, do not permit your faithful Publisher to take his whity-brown locks with sorrow to the grave, when it is so happily in your power to pay the Servant who is ever at your service.—N.B. The Year's Accounts are furnished."

A further printer's appeal is presented on Christmas Day, 1819:—

"To the Public.—The Printer of this Paper arrived in the ship "Royal Admiral," (2nd) in the month of November, 1800. He was immediately brought into public employment by the choice of His Excellency Governor King, as Printer to His Majesty's Government. The *Sydney Gazette* commenced printing on the 5th of March, 1803; its commencement was under the present Printer, who had enough to do to support it, for it supported not him; and the first ten years of the Paper was, indeed, a time of vicissitude. He bought the paper at a very dear price; he distributed his type; he invented and obtained new matter without any auxiliary assistance; he worked the Paper off at Press; and he afterwards carried it out, that is to say, delivered it to the Sydney subscribers. A paper in England, under 700 in number, is sensibly a losing concern; and what must be a Paper here within half the number, and half of that unpaid for? but as an untrodden field we have gently, for seventeen years, traced through the track of the wilderness. Innumerable gentlemen have borne testimony to our hardships; and the Printing Business, in this Colony, may undoubtedly be said to have been uniformly struggling against adversity. That time may put an end to the perpetuation of so discouraging a condition we look forward to. To those noble friends of the Press, who are kind enough to encourage and support us, we throw down the "gand" of true thanksgiving; for if the Printing Business may be deemed worthy of support in any part of the world, here is its utmost claim. We have an infant population, to whom the benevolence of government has extended itself in a very superior degree; and in whose favour the heart of the philanthropist has shed its brightest rays; but now we come to our own affairs. Our readers will expect from us a Christmas Box, which will consist of a *billet doux*, nominating pounds, shillings, and pence, for an attention to which we shall ever esteem ourselves most gratefully obliged."

Much space having been devoted to this, the earliest Australian newspaper, we cannot go beyond the first sixteen years of its career, but must turn to the consideration of those organs of public opinion to which it led the way. However, a few disjointed extracts from publications, dealing with the main subject of our work—the Early Struggles of the Australian Press—may be welcomed by the reader.

It was on April 11th, 1818, that the two middle pages presented blank paper, and no apology was made. An apology in 1822 was as follows: "Everyone, aware of the present contractedness of the typographical machinery, will at once be satisfied that the utmost is done. Modesty is our best attire; but we cannot help saying, as opportunity now favours, that it is the *means* we are deficient in, and not exactly—ability."

On February 20th, 1823, is this piteous cry: "We are reduced to the necessity of presenting the *Gazette* on China paper. Of all evils this is one of those much wished to be avoided, more particularly as it increases our labour two-fold."

Hope beamed forth, in the announcement of August 21st, 1823: "By the 'Elizabeth' our supply of Printing Paper is come; we shall, therefore, enter upon the new size, if all be well, with the New Year. Some new type has reached us—but, we lament to say, it is of small utility, being, from its minuteness, nearly imperceptible to the eye." Nothing was then deemed too mean or poor to be cast to the dog of a colonial printer.

The sorrow had been felt before, as seen on February 6th of that year:—"We have to apologize for the illegibility of last week's *Gazette*. Many of them were scarcely readable; and this was a fault that appeared without remedy, in consequence of two failures having occurred in making experiments upon manufacturing ink. It is one of the most difficult and disagreeable tasks that possibly can devolve to the Printer of a Paper, to make his own ink. About three months since some was turned out of hand pretty fair; since which two attempts have been made, and both fruitless, though laborious and expensive."

It was in that month that reference was made to 1809, saying: "During the short administration of Governor Bligh, the *Gazette* was impeded for some months, on account of paper not being procurable."

A fresh source of jubilation occurs on New Year's Day of 1824, when the public read: "The *Sydney Gazette* appears in a costume this week entirely new. Regardless of the potent undertaking, we are at length impelled to dash forward with the true British style. Could the thought have arisen that it was ever likely the *Sydney Gazette* should shrink into its once contractedness of sentiment, or that the unallowed influences of guilt should quench the purity of its growing freedom," &c. Yet though twenty columns deny, the type, ink, and paper were execrable.

Still, the proprietor had the complacency to write in February, 1824: "Our brother typo, in the sister colony (Hobart Town) enquires how we manage to get such a MONSTER out weekly—meaning our Paper."

As late as January 7th, 1825, some past trials were recalled.

"Common Chinese paper," it is said, "no more than half the size of foolscap, and of which two sheets were consequently obliged to be pasted together for each *Gazette*, cost two guineas sterling per ream. Where was the Public whose cash, correspondence, and confidence are necessary to support a weekly Press? Where could Readers be found except in some thirty or forty dwellings? Was it likely that a Paper could flourish where the only intelligence bore reference to crime, and the usual records were of infamy? It was not. But we saw and felt that a *Gazette* was prospectively demanded, alike by the interests of Government and those of the general community. Therefore, undaunted by the hazard of a total loss, we cast our typographic 'seed on the water,' with hopes of 'seeing it after many days.' We contrived to send forth our boats of enterprizes on the untried ocean of colonial vicissitude. What makes barbarians civilized, removes the film from the eye of superstition, and warms the host of degenerate slaves with the hallowed fire which blazed at Marathon? The Press."

But we really must stop chatting about this interesting and primitive issue of the Australian Press, and introduce type rivals of formidable ability and power, more in harmony with the progressive intelligence and wealth of New South Wales.

#### "THE AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINE."

This magazine had the additional title of *Compendium of Religious, Literary and Miscellaneous Intelligence*. The first number, May 1st, 1821, is introduced by a letter received by the conductors from Governor Macquarie, which is worth reproduction:—

"In respect to your periodical publication, I have no hesitancy in giving it at once my unqualified sanction and approbation, under a thorough conviction that, on the liberal, fair, and pious principles on which it is your intention to conduct *The Australian Magazine*, much benefit must result from it to the community at large."

The May number contains thirty-two pages small octavo, in double columns, and was printed by George Howe, of the *Gazette*. The first article is a pleasing account of the Missionary Society. Under the head "Theology" is a sermon on the truth of revelation. A letter deals with a statement that all the Colonial clergy were of the "Antinomian Persuasion." Literary intelligence follows. Religious intelligence concerns the sixteenth anniversary of the Bible Society. There is an allegory on impudence and modesty. The Chaplain, Mr. Marsden, sends a letter from the Missionary Campbell, of South Africa. The opening of the Wesleyan chapel in Parramatta, April 20th, by Messrs. Mansfield, Lawry, and Carvosso is recorded. European incidents are succeeded by Colonial incidents; and these, by shipping intelligence, the April agricultural report, and a poem by H. Kirke White.

In June we see a continuation of several articles begun in May. The obituary narrates the death of the printer, George Howe. It is said:—"He had for some time been in a declining state of health, under the fatal influence of that dreadful malady the dropsy; and on Friday, May 11th, at his residence in George Street, he resigned his spirit into the hands of his Maker. Mr. Howe was a native of St. Kitts, in the West Indies, where his father and brother conducted for many years the Government Press, which is still continued by his family in that island."

The Life of John Wesley leads off the August number, Jabez Bunting's sermon on Justification is seen in September, and Oxley's Expedition in October. A meteorological diary is given monthly. In the preface to the first volume the conductors declare:—

"Our design from the first has avowedly been 'to disseminate useful knowledge, religious principles, and moral habits.' Political discussion, and party spirit, and personal allusion we have scrupulously avoided. In our Theological Articles we have studiously guarded against unprofitable disputations. Cordially believing the doctrines of the Established Church to be those of the Bible, we shall confine ourselves to those fundamental verities of the Christian faith which are so clearly stated in her Articles and Homilies."

#### "THE AUSTRALIAN."

The *Australian* was the second newspaper of the Colony. It was representative of opposition to the *Sydney Gazette*, and was thoroughly against the then ruling powers. It owed its existence to Mr. Wentworth, a native born patriot, who sought the emancipation of his colonial birthplace from the despotism under which, from peculiar social circumstances, it had been placed by the British Ministry. In his early account of New South Wales, he wrote thus of the Sydney paper:—"Anything in the shape of political discussion is a novelty which it is rarely permitted to exhibit. An independent paper, therefore, which may serve to point out the rising interests of the colonists, and become the organ of their grievances and rights, their wishes and wants, is highly necessary, and, it is to be hoped, will be speedily set on foot."

Dr. Robert Wardell, a scholar, returning with him from England, was placed as conductor of the new press, though Mr. Wentworth was a frequent contributor. Dr. Lang thus wrote of Dr. Wardell:—"A colonial barrister of eminent talent, who was then the editor of the *Australian* newspaper, and whose frail nature had evidently had no such supernatural assistance, gradually discovered more and more illegality, and more and more enormity in the Governor's (*Darling*) procedure, till he came at length to write of it in a manner to the last degree unjustifiable and unbecoming."

Barton's *Literature* has this notice:—"Mr. Wentworth saw, if he continued with the Press, he should subject himself to heavy penalties; he gave his share to Dr. Wardell, who was soon prosecuted by Government. He sold the copyright for £3,600 to eight shareholders. It sold 600 copies twice a week. Last number published 28th September, 1848."

Its aim was expressed "to convert a *prison* into a *colony* fit for a freeman to inhabit himself and to bequeath as an inheritance to a free posterity." Appearing in 1824, when by far the major part of the adults were either prisoners of the Crown, or had been such, the paper attempted to break down the barriers supposed to be erected in the interests of order and law, so as to prepare the Settlement for that coming day of wealth, intellectual advancement, and absolute social freedom which the wise foresaw.

We now notice what its own pages had to declare of Press struggles in the early years of its publication, directing the reader's attention to the section of the "Freedom of the Press" for further particulars of a political nature.

The *Australian* commenced its career on October 24th, 1824, with Thursday as its day of publication. The paper, though rather thin and poor, formed a page 20½ inches in length and 13 in width. The title was in German text. The price per copy was one shilling. The issue contained four pages

of four columns each. George Williams was declared the printer. Owing to the large amount of small type, it was able to present a large amount of matter.

The mercantile aspect is thus treated:—

"In fixing the prices of the Newspaper, and the rate at which advertisements will be received, we have been guided with reference to one principle—a desire to protect ourselves from actual loss. Considering the extent of our establishment, its various branches, and the diversified means employed to collect materials for our use, one shilling a number, or ten dollars for a year's subscription, will probably not be thought too much by subscribers. Should we, however, find that a less sum will afford a remunerative return, we shall immediately lessen the price."

The scale of prices for advertisements begins at: From one to eight lines, inclusive, 3s. 6d. It then advanced to 5s. 6d. for twenty lines, 10s. for forty-seven, 15s. seventy-seven, 18s. one hundred. Advertisements inserted as paragraphs were to be charged 5s., 7s., half-a-guinea, one guinea, &c., according to the size of them.

The Editorial Introduction occupies nearly two columns. We subjoin extracts therefrom:—

"In presenting our Readers with the first number of the *Australian*, we must be old fashioned enough to give some account of our pretensions, and to state on what grounds we lay claim to their attention or expect their favour. Were we simply to advert to the space of time during which this Colony has existed, we might be disposed to consider her in a state little likely to require the assistance of, or derive any benefit from, the establishment of a Free Press. Infant societies, for the most part, have neither leisure nor inclination to bestow time or thought on objects that have no reference to their immediate wants or the necessities of the day. The elegancies of life are not courted until its conveniences are within their reach; literature is neglected, while laborious occupation forms the principal ingredient in the concerns of a people; and the beneficial influence of regular, just, and politic laws is not felt, because it is not needed in a community where a few simple regulations and ordinances are sufficient to guide individuals in their intercourse with each other, or a few rigid enactments are enforced for the protection of the peaceable from plunder or against acts of violence. This, however, is a state of things beyond which the Colony of New South Wales has long since made considerable advancement. In a colony whose energies are thus expanding, little doubt can be entertained of the utility and efficacy of an independent newspaper."

"The aggrandizement and the increasing wealth of a people introduce a complexity into their affairs; conflicting opinions and conflicting interests arise, individual influence is apt to luxuriate and flourish where there exists no corrective to check its exuberance or prevent its growth. A Free Press is the most legitimate, and, at the same time, the most powerful weapon that can be employed to annihilate such influence, frustrate the designs of tyranny, and restrain the arm of oppression. Independent, yet consistent—free, yet not licentious—equally unmoved by favour or by fear—we shall pursue our labours without either a sycophantic approval of, or a systematic opposition to, acts of authority merely because they emanate from Government. It is the happiness and welfare of colonies, their improvement and prosperity, that ought to be considered by the Ministers of the parent State.

"It is the errors of a system—the vices of office—that we condemn. It is measures, not men, that we assail; and our respect for the one will not restrain our animadversions on the other. A legal responsibility, we know, will attach to us for everything we may publish in the *Australian*; but we consider ourselves responsible in point of principles for such opinions only as appear in the leading articles, and our consistency cannot be impeached for admitting into our columns the letters of correspondents, though they may militate with our own avowed sentiments."

There were thirty-six advertisements in the first number, including three from Government. Dr. Halloran brought forward his Sydney Grammar School; and Mr. Busby, his "Treatise on the Cultivation of the Vine and the Art of Making Wine," which would be published by subscription. The Roman Catholic Chapel Fund displayed a goodly list of friends, from the Government's £200 to contributors' lesser sums. The Agricultural Society's Meeting was duly reported, as well as the labour of the Supreme Court.

English Parliamentary news is well reported. A long letter from *A Friend to the Colonists* gives a good digest of information concerning Cape Colony. Among other details, we are told: "It is said that Lord Byron has sold an estate in England to assist the Greeks."

The next issue records the death of General Macquarie in London, July 1st. The leader took up the question of the exclusion from a Jury List of all persons who did not come free to the colony. The Editor regrets this tendency to keep still more aloof "two discordant and heterogeneous classes." The opening of the Sydney Distillery is thus described:—"The good folks of Sydney were entertained on Friday last (October 22nd) with a grand and *novel spectacle*. No less a personage than the mighty King of Spirits made his first and triumphant *entrée* into this loyal town. Music playing, banners flying, lads huzzaing, denoted the approach of the imposing cavalcade. Lest 'the winds of heaven' should visit his face too roughly, his spirituous majesty was safely enclosed in a royal machine, ycleped a butt, from which he occasionally took a hasty glance at the admiring throng. This was the first occasion of his youthful person being shown to a faithful people. The procession moved slowly forward from the palace, vulgarly called the Sydney Distillery, in which his august form first saw the light of heaven," &c.

The Editor is hard upon the Australian Agricultural Company, saying: "One per cent. is all that the Subscribers have been yet called upon to deposit—in other words, that £10,000 may be considered the actual capital of this Company. For this paltry sum the Company are to have, among other privileges, one million acres of land." Letters came in fast and furious upon the subject of the *McFustian Bubble*, the name applied to the million-acred company, with earnest demand for the reversal of the British Government's policy toward it.

Upon the vexed Jury question, the paper was ready to admit letters on both sides, saying: "It forms part of our duty, and part of our system, to admit observations on both sides of any question."

There is, in December 2nd, a curious story of the close of the *South African Commercial Advertiser*, in the eighteenth week of existence, the sealing up of the presses, and the banishment from the colony of the proprietor with one month's notice. The Editor of *The Australian* says that Mr. Greig "was obliged to discontinue his publication because he would not submit to a censorship, and forego the practice of inserting extracts from Blackstone, De Lolme, and other constitutional writers on account of their obvious tendency." "The whole of this extensive, loyal, and once promising colony is thus laid prostrate at the feet of some dark, inexplicable power."

Governor Brisbane's visit to the new settlement at Moreton Bay is noted December 9th, and the

beautiful country duly praised. It was then contemplated to move the people from Redcliff Point to the present site of the capital.

Controversies thickened when there were two papers, and friction between the two organs quickly appeared. Thus, the *Australian*, December 16th, 1824, wrote:—"Upon the first view of an article which appeared in the columns of our contemporary last week, we decidedly resolved to maintain that dignified silence so much superior to a contest with a coarse adversary, to whose level one must descend to be understood by him. But reflecting that silence might be misconstrued by our Readers, and that our unwillingness to reply arose from fear or inability, we have vouchsafed to notice this impotent attack. We could wish to have reserved our fire for a worthier antagonist—not to waste it on such a foe as he. We will for once waive our superiority, as a gentleman sometimes stoops to thrash a dustman when the fellow purposely bespatters him with the filth of his cart."

The long advertisement of a sale of books is accompanied by the printer's "we are extremely sorry that a sudden press of advertisements has compelled us to omit a considerable portion of this list of books."

The first issue of 1825 gives the meeting-place (Hyde Park) of the Leinster Masonic Lodge of Australia. It is then published as the last line of the paper: "Sydney—Printed for the Proprietors by John Cubitt." In a notice to correspondents, "Ann may rest assured we have gallantry sufficient to oblige her, if by so doing we did not inevitably run the risk of offending our Readers. Her rhymes are very fervid, but they are not poetry." The Editor declares "*Philanthropos* is a libel," and says, "We have yet our doubts about the propriety of inserting *A Lover of Justice*."

The Emancipist party resented their exclusion from the Jury List. One addressed the Editor thus, January 20th, 1825: "Would the Emancipists, resenting this wanton insult, unanimously agree to give no credit to free settlers, to decline all future dealings or communications with them, to call in all outstanding debts and mortgages," &c. The *Australian Pocket Almanack* was noticed in that issue. A Hobart correspondent declares that the *Australian* was universally praised there, and that "we are all subscribers to it."

The week after, it is announced that Messrs. Howell and Hume had returned, after having "penetrated as far as *Western Port*, Bass's Straits, where they discovered a river of considerable magnitude" (1). The editorial remarks clearly show that the colonial idea of *Geelong* was *Western Port*, and not *Port Phillip*.

A Liberty of the Press notice tells of the fines and imprisonment of the printer and publisher of the *John Bull* (a year and £1,600) for libel, and the seizure of the office, type, &c., on account of the fine, though the official discharge was shown the sheriff.

The *Australian* of January 27th, 1825, had an article running thus:—"The sooner the duties and privileges of Editors of Newspapers are defined and proclaimed to them the better; for as yet but few seem to have any notion either of the boundaries of discussion, or the law which regulates the publication of the occurrences of the day. Our readers approve of our remarks, applaud our principles, and admire our independence; but our best friends will censure when they fancy they are included in any reproof, or their public conduct reprehended by us."

One complaint is met: "We are prepared, no doubt, to be told that our object is to fill our pockets. Granted; where is the harm of this? Where is the injury of being compensated for public services? So long as the good we effect to the community preponderates over individual suffering, so long are we entitled to the thanks and the support of the people." Certainly the editor is very hard upon Mr. Secretary Goulburn, and quotes a letter from Sydney, inserted in the London *Morning Chronicle*, containing rude, if not unjust, remarks upon that official.

Newcastle ceased to be a penal settlement at the end of 1823. The "Almorah," bearing a Government cargo worth £40,000, was seized for an infraction of the rights of the East India Company. The *Australian*, of February 25th, has no regret, since Government had no right to turn trader. It was the custom about this time, not only to write long letters to the editor for insertion, but even to address him in more lengthy letters conveying criticisms on public affairs.

The Editors, March 31st, 1825, remarked: "We have for a length of time had it in contemplation to publish the *Australian* two days in the week. We have now been before our Australian Readers twenty-five weeks. During that period our career has been marked by a progressive increase of patronage. Already have the principles of Independence promulgated through this channel made considerable inroads on the ancient mode of thinking, and on the narrow views which formerly prevailed in the colony. Oppression, which was formerly practised by various petty tyrants, has withered under its influence. A weekly newspaper, even in its most perfect form, is a contracted medium of intelligence, and extremely defective in many respects as an organ of Popular Interest—to make a newspaper something better than a mere controversial instrument, or, indeed, to combine its polemic properties with qualities purely literary, so that while the former may teach independence to the latter may expand the energies of the mind—is an object not unworthy the pen, the time, and the industry of the Editors of the *Australian*."

The issues, bi-weekly, Wednesday afternoon, and Saturday evening, were hoped to commence in May, and the price to be one shilling a copy. The price remained, but the bi-weekly did not begin till Saturday, March 25th, 1826.

On June 2nd, 1825, we read: "Some delay has unavoidably occurred in bringing out the *Australian* twice a week. The delay is entirely owing to the arrangements in the Printing Office not having been quite completed. We cannot conveniently carry into effect our contemplated design without a further addition to the number of our compositors. The want of such addition cannot now be of long duration, as we have very recently received advices from England informing us that a shipment of hands for us would take place by an early conveyance after Christmas."

The paper of Saturday, March 25th, 1826, observed: "Our Readers will this morning be surprised (agreeably so, we hope,) at the appearance of the *Australian*. We flatter ourselves that the period is not very distant when we shall begin to meet them twice a week permanently." The next issue was Thursday, March 30th, followed by Saturday, April 1st, and Wednesday, April 5th. The Saturday and Wednesday were continued.

The banishment of British editors from India was the subject of a leader on July 7th, 1825, Mr. Fair being sent a prisoner on board a ship at Bombay. Dr. Maclean before this was sent on board under fixed bayonets, for defending his brother against the Company's servant. Mr. Buckingham lost £30,000 by his expulsion, for exposing a profligate job. Mr. Arnot was punished in a similar way.

October 6th, 1825, had over three columns of self-congratulation, and of severe reflections upon the rival paper, declared to have so much less a sale than the *Australian*: "Looking at it in the light of

a mercantile speculation, it would be perfectly indifferent to us whether its circulation amounted to five or ten hundred; but as an affair of principle, it is quite another thing. Of 625 copies of our first-born, our patrons did not leave us a solitary impression. The 'Official Journal' never yet, we will venture to assert, issued on any one occasion, and in the moment of its greatest prosperity, six hundred and twenty-five copies." The writer then charges its rival with misrepresentation to keep up a show of advertisements. The sale of the latter was declared 493 each number; but 652 for the *Australian*.

The *Calcutta Journal* of that time took occasion, from an inspection of the *Australian*, to quote the *John Bull*, in saying: "The censorship, it appears, has been removed, and freedom of the press as in England established—freedom, indeed, to a greater extent than exists in England itself—as none of the Six Acts, we presume, apply to New South Wales, however much they have contributed to its population. It certainly appears to us that there is no part of the British dominions in which Freedom of the Press may be established with greater prosperity than in New South Wales, for in none can its licentiousness, however great, be more harmless. There is here an evident chance of free discussion doing good, and scarcely a risk of its making matters worse than they are."

The editors were not disposed to pass over the last remark, saying: "The advocacy of the liberty of the Press here arises not from an opinion that the colonists are in a condition to exact it. The experiment will serve as a beacon to guide the management of other colonies, and for that reason a free Press in New South Wales is approved of by *John Bull*. This, then, is the idea at Calcutta of the Ouran-Outang people of Botany Bay."

Noting the word of the *Scotsman in the East*, that the convicts might "avail themselves of the Press to bring the Government into disrepute," the *Australian* exclaims: "Prisoners of the Crown leaguely with the Press! This would be rare news. The freest of the free cannot boast of more dutiful allegiance than the Emancipists. The Nimrods of the territory once domineered over Prisoners, Emancipists, and Free alike: regardless of justice, they spurred at and trampled on man's rights."

A disposition under the Darling rule to treat those of the Catholic persuasion with less liberality than under the Brisbane régime, was eloquently combatted in the paper of December 29th. Protestants and Roman Catholics were regarded, however, from a curious political point of view, as: "They are to the Church what Whig and Tory are to the State. They help to preserve religion in greater purity. The rival Pastors are not only guardians of their own followers, but they are a watch over each other."

The Bank of New South Wales reduced discount from ten to eight per cent. at the close of the year 1825. At a meeting, presided over by Mr. Samuel Terry, it was shown that the half-year's net gain was 11,199 Spanish dollars, allowing of a dividend "at the rate of sixty-two per cent. per annum on the amount of capital invested." The *Australian* attributes the reduction of discount to "the prospect of a new banking establishment rising," &c.

The value of a rupee is brought out in an advertisement of March 2nd, 1826: "Robbery of £288 in rupees, at two shillings and threepence each."

March 5th details an account of runaways in the Straits, and notes thirty white men having forty black women on Kangaroo Island. A connection was traced between the runaways on the Islands and the bushrangers of Van Diemen's Land.

The editor on April 1st is encouraged by subscribers to have a bi-weekly issue. "We do not, indeed," said he, "wonder at the readiness which is shown to support a newspaper, from which all objectionable paragraphs, all attacks on private character, all intermeddlings with private affairs, are carefully excluded. We have no vindictive feelings to satiate, no rancorous and unchristianlike passions to feed—we leave every man to enjoy the pleasures of his own parlour, of his own fireside. Our career is at least an honourable one."

This self-complacent statement may not have been complacently received by others, especially by the proprietor of the *Sydney Gazette*. But subscribers were informed that by the bi-weekly arrangement the single copy would be reduced to ninpence from the shilling. Advertisers were assured they would have "the advantage of two newspapers with the expense of one," as there would be no charge for every fourth and fifth insertion; an advertisement might appear five times on a payment for three times, "an actual reduction of sixty per cent." A school was to be established in June at Sydney for the education of female servants. Subscriptions were solicited for this special boarding school. A Launceston writer exhibits the alarm there about the bushrangers, "as they had threatened to come into town."

The forthcoming of another Sydney paper is thus announced, May 3rd, 1826: "A weekly newspaper, to be called the *Monitor*, will be published as early as possible—perhaps in the course of a fortnight. Those persons who wish to patronise this new attempt to increase the literary efforts of the Colony are requested to favour the proprietors by leaving their names as subscribers at Mr. Hill's Tavern; or at the *Monitor* Printing Office, Mr. Payne's Buildings, George Street."

This curious printing story was told in a May issue: "When a Jew, who was a famous printer in Holland, brought to Constantinople printing presses, &c., to introduce the art of printing in that city, the Vizier caused him to be hanged, declaring it would be a great cruelty that one man should enrich himself by taking the bread of 11,000 scribes, who gained their living by their pen."

The Caledonian Academy of Sydney was advertised in May to be organised by the Minister of the Scots Church (Dr. Lang) on the principles of the Scottish High Schools. In June the Academy was stated to be opened in Prince Street Chapel by the Rev. John Dunmore Lang, D.D.

Great excitement among the public and the press was produced by the news at the close of November, 1826, that the flogged soldier, Sudds, had died from his rough treatment under Governor Darling's order for punishment. The event led to an angry controversy, involving mortifying reflections upon Government House, which led to the crusade against the press of the colony in 1827. The last paper of 1826 notifies that the clergy, hitherto dependent upon the British Treasury, were now to be paid from colonial funds. One seventh of the lands of the colony were then said to be made over to the Church of England use. The early dissolution of the Church and School Land Corporation was recorded in the issue of January 17th, 1827.

The contest between the Government organ, the *Sydney Gazette*, and *The Australian*, for and against Governor Darling, occupied no small part of the leaders in papers of 1827. A sneer from the latter is conveyed in the phrase, "The editor of the *Government Gazette* affects to be a religious character;" and this ill feeling was duly reciprocated. The political subjects under discussion that year were "Trial by Jury," and "Taxation by Representation." Mr. Wentworth was the hero of the popular cause, and was a persistent opponent of the Governor.

In March, 1827, the publication days were changed to Tuesday and Saturday, but in April returned to Wednesday and Friday. Dr. Redfern's flogging of Mr. Howe, of the *Gazette*, was chronicled in January, 1828.

“THE MONITOR.”

Mr. Edward Smith Hall was the conductor of a paper under Governor Darling's government, which was, like some others, according to Mr. Barton, not distinguished for “scrupulous regard to truth.” The Rev. Dr. Braim said it was “conducted on the principles, and as much as possible in the style of the late Mr. Cobbett, and, summoning the whole prisoner population to contemplate the contest, fiercely threw down the gauntlet of opposition.” Some articles, though violent, displayed considerable literary talent.

The New South Wales *Monitor* commenced its being on Friday, May 19th, 1826. Its motto was—“Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.” It was printed and published at the *Monitor* Press, no name appearing. The paper on which it was printed was 15½ inches long by 10½ broad. There were eight pages, three columns each. There was only a weekly issue. The price of a copy was one shilling. A small engraving under the title depicted an eye looking down upon instruments of agriculture, the front page of the *Monitor*, an inkstand, with pens, etc.

Advertisements occupied eight columns; the prospectus four and a half; English news, six and a half; and bank affairs, two. An advertisement of eight lines and under cost 3s. 6d., fourteen lines, 4s. 6d. From the prospectus the following may be cited:—

“We certainly are of opinion that, while we attribute considerable merit to the two journals which hitherto have engrossed the attention of the Australian Public, there is, nevertheless, room for improvement in some particulars; and in none more than their general dearth of Parliamentary intelligence, and of English and Foreign information. The Author of our religion did, indeed, denounce the wicked—but it was not the publican, nor the harlot, nor the adulteress; these confessed they were sinners—but it was the Pharisees—the *religious* Pharisees—and the lordly Sadducees, men of fashion and of fame, whom the lowly Saviour condemned. We always deeply regretted that, with the sanction of the Magistrates, the names of respectable householders, men of landed property, and heads of families were omitted in the Sheriff's jury lists, merely because some ten, twenty, or thirty years ago, they came to the colony under the pressure of misfortune. His (the Governor's) errors we shall loyally attribute to his two Councils rather than to himself, and we consider his person too sacred, at all events, to become liable to the rude and familiar attacks of a newspaper. The self-important, solemn aspect we have exhibited, though it may be matter of joke to our youthful readers, both male and female, as well as to our more comic friends of adult years, will be excused; for we have felt it no joke ourselves to have been pleading before the Australian Public.”

The claims of Emancipists and the rights of Catholics were not, therefore, to be neglected by this *Monitor*.

The libel case of Dr. Halloran, of the Grammar School, against the *Gazette* editor, was reported in five columns of the second number of the paper. An eclipse of the moon called forth the ethical reporter's remarks: “The judgment, the imagination, the powers of Science, the affections, our pious feelings, all were in deep exercise. The words, ‘Be still, and know that I am God,’ seemed to be spoken audibly to our inmost soul, while the moon was under the shade of God's earth.”

On June 9th was this apology: “We have made some desperate exertions to get our journal delivered before eight in the morning these short days, and last week we presumed to advertise as though we had accomplished our wishes on that head. Experience, however, for the ten-thousandth time proved us too sanguine.” He was further induced to hint to correspondents: “In our choice of poetry we are compelled to consider poetic genius essential.” Referring to some Newcastle horrors, the editor added: “We shall some day open a scene respecting these very judicial penal settlements which will make men's hair stand on end.”

The Rev. J. J. Therry, June 16th, published his letter to Government, pitiously entreating for a few prisoner carpenters to finish the roof of his Catholic chapel. He invited attention “to the general state of the Catholics of the colony, and more especially to the exiled portion of them, destitute, as many of them are, of means to provide education for their children, or to obtain for themselves religious and moral instruction.” He contrasted that neglect with the liberal aid afforded by Government to the more opulent Protestant church.

Under the head of “Anticipation,” we have extracts from Sydney newspapers of January, 1900. Among other news, one reads of the probability of war with Tasmania; of one who remembers the old gaol in the middle of George Street; of land fetching 25 years' purchase; of a steamer going to Moreton Bay in three days; of the Legislatures of Australia; of clothing factories reducing the wool export to 20,000,000 lbs. from 22,000,000; of a ship from home through the Darien Canal in 47 days; of prisoners sent to New Zealand instead of New South Wales; of two natives exhibited for a shilling admission; of the population of Sydney being 287,652 souls, etc.

In July, the Editor declared his advertisements as numerous, and his subscribers nearly as many, as his two contemporaries had; adding: “The only drawback on our pleasure is sympathy for our aged friend, the *Gazette*, whose columns every other day loudly proclaim the agonies with which our unparalleled success afflicts his tottering frame.” A correspondent began his letter to the *Monitor* with, “Sir, as an old inhabitant, formerly *under the law*,” etc.

“In the Wednesday's *Gazette*,” said the *Monitor* of July 28th, “we have not merely had the honour to receive an unusual quantity of abuse, but a stab has been aimed at our office. The attempts made by the *Gazette* to induce the Government to take away our printers speaks for itself. We have, indeed, but two printers belonging to Government—our office will be soon filled with free journeymen and apprentices.” The death of Mrs. Hall, wife of the editor, put the first page, on August 18th, into mourning. The imprint then was, “Printed and published at the *Monitor* Press by Hill & Co.”

An Irish wedding feast in Sydney was introduced by the following lines:—

“I sing of a wedding that was in Australia,  
And the guests they were clad in true Irish regalia;  
A wedding took place between Pat and Amelia,  
Who long had at Cupid been frowning.”

Cobbett's “History of the Protestant Reformation” was largely quoted in the *Monitor*. Sabbath desecration by the running of Sunday coaches was editorially condemned.

The duel between Mr. Bannister, Attorney General, and Dr. Wardell, of the *Australian*, came off in October, and was the beginning of a long series of disputes. The book of the Rev. S. Marsden was being severely criticised by the Sydney press.

The *Monitor* did not take the violent part which the *Australian* did against Governor Darling. In reply to strictures, it said that kings, nobles, and governors had been oppressed, as well as the people; adding, "For instance, Bligh, of New South Wales, was most grievously oppressed."

Notice is given, December 20th, that Dr. Lang has just published a volume, price 10s., called it *Aurora Australis*. As a specimen, the paper gave one verse from Lang, the poet:—

"Our voyage is begun, for  
The anchor is weighed, and  
The north wind is fresh and fair,  
Filling the white sails."

This is the description of Newcastle coal in 1827: "The coal, being in the hands of Government, may be considered the cause of the wretched state of Newcastle. Instead of having a steam engine and substantial waggons to run down an inclined plane, and empty their contents into the vessel's hold, as is done on the banks of the Tyne and Wear, the coal is here doled out in miserable thimbles full, and drawn about the wharf by hand barrows! Five or six prisoners to a barrow is quite a common number of hands."

On March 2nd, 1827, appeared the notice of Mr. Hill leaving his partner, Mr. E. S. Hall, sole proprietor of the *Monitor*. The same day we have the following advertisement:—

"THE GLEANER."—A NEW WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

"The colonists of New South Wales may be said to be literally inundated with daily, tri-duan, and weekly newspapers; and it may, therefore, be naturally inquired, 'What motive can prompt a superogatory attempt to swell the number of these periodicals? And, with what rational hope can an Embryo-Editor be inspired of patronage or success?' We are of opinion that a literary dish, differently dressed and less highly seasoned, may be more suitable to the palate of no inconsiderable portion of our growing Community. Rich and hot ragoûts may please a vitiated taste, and may afford a zest at the expense of permanent satisfaction; but to a temperate and well-regulated appetite, plain, wholesome viands, as they are in themselves more salutary, will be more acceptable and gratifying. It shall not be subservient to the views of any party. It shall never disgrace its columns by personality, scurrility, or individual attacks. It will not, with indiscriminate violence, assail, or with undeviating pertinacity defend, the measures of Government. In its quality of 'Gleaner,' this journal purposes to make a faithful and as judicious a selection as possible for its Readers." &c.

It was announced to be published on Thursday, at ten shillings per quarter. The advertisements, not over twelve lines, was to be four shillings. Orders would be received by Mr. G. Eager, at his Printing Office, Moss's Cottage, King Street; and by Dr. Halloran, 53, Phillip Street.

The *Monitor* was hard upon "the ignorance of the colony—i.e., Bigge and the Faction"—and declared "Nothing seems to prosper with the 1808 folks now-a-days. They appear to have had their day." It said, March 23rd, 1827: "The Crown of England never did support us, but, as far as our infantile exertions have gone, the Colony has supported the Mother Country."

In April the Publisher intimated that "the change of the circulating medium from currency to sterling has given rise to many little embarrassments even in our small matters; consequently "the price of the *Monitor* is now sterling." A Press libel case was thus chronicled: "The Editor of the *Australian*, in the late action against his brother Editor (Mr. Howe), prudently waited till Mr. Michael Robinson, the author of the libel, was deceased. Then he brought forward his prosecution." But all the damages then obtained from the libellous Howe by Dr. Wardell was one shilling. When the *Monitor* was condemned to a fine for an article it was paid by public subscription." A common mode of attack from one editor to another was then in the form of an advertisement.

A publication change in the *Monitor* was announced to take effect on May 8th, 1827, when, owing to success, the issue will be bi-weekly—Tuesday and Friday. A single copy of either would be one shilling; but to subscribers to both, the extra one would be sevenpence, or ninepence-halfpenny each number.

Referring to the new journal, we read, April 27th: "The new weekly journal, the *Gleaner*, had appeared thrice before the *Australian* chose to notice its existence. Honourable mention was made of the new journal first by the *Gazette*, and then by the *Monitor*."

The issue on May 11th, 1827, contained no less than nine columns upon the "Freedom of the Press," in consequence of Governor Darling's recent Acts for the restriction of its liberty. The article embraced the following subjects:—The effects of the new tax on the Proprietors of our Colonial Newspapers; the inequality of the new tax; the most probable intention of the new tax divined; the unconstitutionality of the new tax; and what remedy have the Editors and the Public under the two new Acts.

June 1st: "Our friends will see that we have added 3d. stg. to the price of our journal, i.e., £6 5s. weekly on 500 copies, while we paid, last Tuesday, to the collector of the Stamp Duty, fourpence on each copy, or the sum of £8 6s. 8d. [In large type.] Since writing the above a gentleman has called at our office. We received it with marvellous satisfaction." Notice: "In consequence of the Governor having acceded to the wishes of the Colony at large by not putting in force the new Stamp Act, the price of this journal, fixed in our front page at fifteen pence sterling, will be charged only one shilling when we furnish our bills. On Tuesday, the 12th inst., we shall publish our SECOND NUMBER."

The year 1842, so full of disasters to the commercial and pastoral interests of the colony, saw the end of the *Monitor* and of other members of the local Press.

The *Sydney Herald* of January, 1843, thus alludes to the fatality: "The adversity of the past year was, of course, felt by the Press as well as by other interests. To four of our contemporaries, indeed, it proved fatal. The *Free Press* and *Examiner*, after a very brief, but noisy career, gave up the ghost. The *Monitor*, having lost the master hand which had from the first guided its affairs, had reached the respectable age of sixteen years when it, too, slept the sleep of death; and even the poor old *Sydney Gazette*, the first literary adventurer in the Southern Hemisphere, after a long and eventful life of nearly forty years, sank into an inglorious grave. Once the defunct veteran was exhumed, and an effort made to re-animate the vital spark, but in vain—the decree had gone forth, and could not be revoked."

"HOWE'S WEEKLY COMMERCIAL EXPRESS."

This was run by Mr. Howe, the proprietor of the *Sydney Gazette*. He was unable to bring out more than twenty-two numbers.

The first issue was on Monday, May 2nd, 1825, at ninepence, having four pages, four columns a

page, of small demy. It was printed at the *Gazette* office. Its motto was, "Industry is the mother, the nurse, and the guardian of all virtues." As an introduction to the Public, the following was written:—"The conductor of this New Paper, who confidently puts in his claim for a share of popular indulgence, has long been an attentive observer of the rise and progress of the country. One of our contemporaries, in his opening address of 1824, adverted to the liberal discussion then so newly enjoyed by the Press, and expressed proportionate gratitude for the enlightened policy which had secured to the colony so essential an immunity. But how much greater reason is there now for the Colony to rejoice! The *Australian* has, since that gratulatory period, established itself upon the broad basis of independence; and the *Sydney Gazette* (the elder and original journal) has been indebted to the instrumentality of a competitor for that freedom, in the absence of which its brilliancy was obscured, its energies unknown. Every shackle is removed—the channels of open thought are deep and broad and free—the Press carries on, without impediment, its potent operations, and is discharged from all responsibility but that which is legal and constitutional. Under these propitious circumstances, another literary candidate, in the *Commercial Express*, is emboldened to enter the field."

A just tribute is paid to the labours of George Howe in connection with the *Gazette*. There are sundry reviews of poems and works, news from England and Tasmania, and an interesting sketch of Lord Byron's character. But the main feature of the *Express* is in commercial notices and lists of prices. The first number had ninety-two advertisements. In the second is the story of a letter which took a month to go from Windsor to Sydney, thirty-eight miles off. The very small type increased the difficulty for readers. A new geography book divided Australia into Australasia and Polynesia. Four columns were devoted to the Burmese War. Much attention was then directed to the Australian Agricultural Company, and to Wilderspin's Infant School System. In July 15th is a supplement, having a storekeeper's list of books for sale, occupying four columns.

This advertisement came out July 18th: "For the benefit of the Author (and his family), who has the Palsy, will be shortly published, by subscription of two dollars, 'Extracts of the Letters to my Uncle Toby, or the History of New South Wales, including accounts of the Colony from various Authors,' &c., by Dr. Parmeter, author of 'The Cow Doctor.' An extract is given: "I forgot to mention that I was obliged to use a basket for a nightcap, and for blankets old rags, for the roof was too porous."

The last number, September 26th, 1825, bearing eighty-two advertisements, had this announcement: "The *Express* has reached its twenty-second number, and is now on the eve of taking farewell, for a season at least, of that Public which has so liberally patronised its publication. Without increased material aid we could not possibly carry on *Howe's Express* and the *Sydney Gazette* in the same office, particularly when the latter paper should come to be printed twice in each week. This experimental journal, which has been found to answer every expectation that was formed, will therefore not be published in future until the returns, per the *Mangles*, be received from England, when a large accession of mechanical and professional strength is warmly anticipated. We shall duly remember, in our seclusion from society, the expressions of jealousy which were elicited from the ex-*Hobart Town Gazette*, and also bear in mind the magnanimous contempt shown towards us in the newly-formed *Colonial Times*. In reference to the *Australian*, the independent journal of the South, that orb with whose resplendence the Colonists were long since to be astounded, we must be permitted to *Express* our deepest sense of gratitude, since the kind-hearted Editors have suffered us to pass unheeded from the moment of our birth to our death, without so much as a single plaudit or a solitary instance of censure. It strikes us that the *Australian* will shortly follow us to the shades."

#### THE "GOVERNMENT GAZETTE."

Mr. Howe, of the *Sydney Gazette*, was, as has been stated, long the medium of communication between the Governor and the governed, printing all Orders, Proclamations, and Notices. At length it was deemed proper to issue an Official Gazette of an independent character.

The public intimation of the Government intention, on March 5th, 1832, ran thus: "On the 7th, and on every succeeding Wednesday, an Official Paper, intitled the *New South Wales Government Gazette*, would be issued, consisting wholly of the following particulars, viz. :—1st. All official negotiations connected with the Public Service, where the charge would be defrayed by Government. 2nd. All such advertisements as might be sent to the Printer respecting insolvents, Sheriff's sales and executions, pound-keepers' notices, and all other notices and advertisements from Public Departments where the cost fell upon the parties concerned."

This, "Published by Authority," came forth on Wednesday, March 7th, 1832, in foolscap size, Number 2 appearing March 14th. The imprint was, "Sydney: Printed by R. Mansfield for the Executors of the late R. Howe." Price, one shilling.

In July, 1840, the following notice was seen in the *Port Phillip Gazette*:—"The Government at Sydney has established a Printing Office for the use of the Public Service only. By this means Mr. Tegg, who had the contract for publishing the Council Papers, and the *Herald*, which performed the printing of the Official *Gazette*, &c., have discharged—the former five, and the latter eleven—compositors from their respective employ. By the cessation of the *Commercial Journal* six more compositors are also added to the above list. As newspapers are about to be established at Maitland and at Port Macquarie, many of these will be in requisition for those services."

During 1838 the Government *Gazette* contained 1,155 pages; in 1839, 1,493; in 1840, 1,437; in 1841, 1,815 pages. It was then published twice a week.

The difficulty of dealing with private printing firms was described in a despatch to Lord John Russell, January 16th, 1841: "At present, from the quantity of work required, no one Printing Office is capable of performing the whole within a reasonable time in any satisfactory way; and it is, therefore, necessary to divide it among two or more of them. The *Government Gazette*, notwithstanding every exertion, frequently does not appear until a week after the proper day of publication. The Council has been often kept sitting for a considerable period waiting for the printing of Bills and other papers, and the general business of the Government has been retarded from the want of proper Forms. In fact, although bound in the usual way with sureties, the contractors, through the absence of competitors, do not feel themselves obliged to fulfil their engagements, and it is found impossible to compel them. It is, therefore, proposed, as the most effective remedy for these several inconveniences, as well as to provide the means of performing the additional work which any modification of the Legislative Council may render necessary, to establish a Printing Office under the exclusive orders and control of the Government."



The expense was then stated. "The services of a practical printer, who had been for some time conducting the largest printing establishment in Sydney," were to cost £300 a year; two free men as assistants would require £200 and £150. It is added: "But it is proposed that the remainder of the establishment shall consist entirely of convicts, and it is estimated that about twenty men and boys, only a portion of whom need be printers, will be sufficient." The cost of new materials might be about £400 every year. The outlay for types, &c., was to be about £1,400; salaries, £650; rations for twenty, £456 5s.; gratuities for overtime, £200. At least £500 might be expected from advertisements outside. Mr. Deas Thomson, the Colonial Secretary, said: "It is confidently hoped that, independently of any consideration of expenses, the advantages, derived from the economy of time and the accuracy and despatch of public business, will be such as to fully justify the measure, and render evident its utility and importance."

#### "THE BLOSSOM."

This narrow octavo monthly made its first appearance in May, 1828. That first number observed: "Forty revolving years have rolled by since Australia, the mistress of the Southern Hemisphere, was first affiliated to the parent Empire. The rapid progress she has made within that period, associated with the numberless advantages she naturally inherits, has ensured her a preponderating influence as a colony."

The Editor appealed for support, saying: "We are youthful adventurers in life and in authorship." He notes "the circumstance of our being a native of that country whose literature we essay to encourage," and hopes "our exertions have not failed in promoting the general good."

The subjects treated by the first numbers included—Remarks on the State of Society in New South Wales, Administration of Justice therein, Commerce, Enterprise, The Drama, The Turf, The Female Factory, Agricultural Report, Press, Post Office, Infant School, Poetry, Marriages, Deaths, &c.

Of Governor Brisbane, in relation to Press people, it is said that he "was a man open to conviction of error, and, instead of evincing a desire to gag the Press, manifested on every public occasion that afforded a degree of satisfaction to such public writers." Of his successor, however, the remark is made: "Let his Excellency think no more to crush the literature of our country, nor to oppress the Editors of Newspapers, and deprive us of the Press, or we will become illiterate slaves." Acknowledging the *Australian* as "the first independent Newspaper," the writer thinks the conducting thereof will have gained for its Editor (Dr. Wardell) "a name which we pre-*judge* will be cherished with the warmest respect by our posterity."

The *Gleaner*, of four small pages, started by Dr. Halloran as a weekly, had but a brief existence in Sydney. It began on April 5th, 1827, and closed in October following. The *South Asian Register* struggled a short time in 1828, though starting under Dr. Oldfield as a Quarterly in October, 1827. Mr. Wentworth's "History" refers to the *Australian Magazine, or Compendium of Religious, Literary and Miscellaneous Intelligence*, by a Wesleyan minister in 1820.

#### "THE SYDNEY HERALD."

This *Times* of New South Wales began its career on April 18th, 1831. The proprietors were Messrs. W. Stephens, F. M. Stokes, and W. McGarvie, of Lower George Street. It became bi-weekly in 1833, tri-weekly in 1837, daily in 1840; when it was purchased by Messrs. C. Kemp and John Fairfax, to whose attention and enterprise the periodical became indebted for its great success. It took the name of the *Sydney Morning Herald* on August 1st, 1842. Buying up the *Colonist* and the *Australian Free Press* in 1856, it secured a stronger position.

The fourth number of the *Sydney Herald*, to be seen at the London Public Record Office, is 18 inches long by 11 broad, containing four pages of four columns each. The leaders are in good type, but most of the rest is in so small a letter as not easily to be read. The number's date was May 6th, 1831. It is declared: "Edited, printed and published by Ward Stephens, Frederick Michael Stokes, and William McGarvie (sole proprietors), Redman's Court, George Street, Sydney."

In January, 1832, the size advanced to 22 inches by 14, four pages of six columns each. The motto still remained, "Sworn to no Master, of no Sect am I." A deficiency of paper sometimes, as in September, October, November of 1832, made it a couple of inches shorter in length. The same irregularity was seen in 1833, sometimes being an inch less in width as well as length.

Monday was the weekly day of publication till May 17th, 1832, when Thursday appeared to make the paper bi-weekly. This was a proper occasion for self-congratulation, leading the editor to write: "It has never fallen to our lot to experience more sincere satisfaction than in the present instance, when our paper, through the patronage of the public and the kindness of our friends, is ushered into the world for the first time, as a journal to be published in future twice a week. Our efforts to instruct and amuse have been unceasing; our arrangements to secure intelligence from the highest sources have been varied and successful; our pecuniary engagements have been great, and our original outlay was expensive, to meet the wishes of those who, with unprecedented liberality, have extended the right hand of patronage to our undertaking. But the pleasurable emotions arising from the successful issue of our labours are ample compensation for our expense and toil. In setting out afresh on our career, we cannot but recall the circumstances under which we commenced our labours. We started from the goal with 600 subscribers. Our paper was small in size, but in typographical execution as well as in the literary department, it was worthy of comparison with the older journals. Numerous subscribers soon flowed in upon us. We published various supplements, and finally increased the size of the paper, but were still unable to satisfy the desire of our country subscribers for English news and extracts from popular periodicals and journals. We shall not barter the increased pleasure of duty fulfilled for the corroding remembrance of temporary scurrility, or unsparing abuse."

Reform was a feature in that May paper of 1831. A criticism of public expenditure was judiciously but faithfully performed. The surplus was then £45,622, "which is a larger sum than any other colony under the Crown can boast of." The period is looked to as near when there should be a representative council; and when the Government printing bill of £1,338, should be reduced, by the work being submitted to public tender. But it was quite a subject of congratulation that the revenue from spirits and licences, £72,598, should be "nearly ten thousand pounds more than America collected of colonial revenue before the Revolution."

The police, correspondence, and domestic intelligence are jammed into the smallest possible space,

with the smallest of type. Commercial news, markets, and some of the advertisements are better favoured; but the pressman did his work well. There are four Government notices and thirty private advertisements. The chief foreign news lay in the story of the Polish Revolution of 1830.

A stout resistance was made by the paper to the attempt to put a duty upon foreign corn coming into Sydney, and the Government were warned of their probable increased expense. Complaint was made that one paper should have the monopoly of impounding advertisements. The £17,000 grant to the Church and School Corporation is boldly attacked as an injustice to other denominations.

The issue of July 4th, 1831, has an interesting letter from Mr. Hamilton Hume, urging the settlement of the fine country between the Murray and the Straits. "I am firmly of opinion," he wrote, "that if the country at Bass's Straits were thrown open to emigration, it would in a short time prove the granary of this colony, and one of the greatest sheep countries in Australia."

Our Editor is delighted with the larger and better paper provided; saying, January 2nd, 1832: "It is with no ordinary degree of satisfaction we are enabled, by strenuous exertions, to present our readers this day with the first number of the *Sydney Herald* of an enlarged size, and which will be continued to our subscribers at the same moderate price formerly charged."

This was 5s. per quarter, or 6s. 3d. if posted to the country, but 7d. for a single number. Advertisements were 2s. 6d. for eight lines, with 1d. extra for all above that quantity.

The Editor, in his leader, gave some press news of the colony. He noted the suspension of the *Sydney Gazette* on the deposition of Governor Bligh, and its revival under Macquarie. The letter of "Philo Free" (Mr. J. F. Campbell) in the *Gazette* of 1817, was, said the *Herald*, "the primary cause of Mr. Bigge's commission, Macquarie's removal, the appointment of the Church Corporation, with its immense grants, and of the Legislative and Executive Councils."

He further notices *Howe's Weekly Express* in 1824, the *Australian* soon after, the *Monitor* of 1826, followed by the early-deceased *Gleaner*, *Blossom*, and *Australian Quarterly Journal*. He adds: "It is only since the period that frequent discussions have taken place through the Colonial Press, that a tolerably fair estimate has been formed of our state and resources in the Mother Country."

On January 16th, 1832, the paper was gratified to announce that Mr. Stanley had assured the House that when they published any proclamation in provincial newspapers, it should be in "those newspapers, without regard to their politics, which had the largest circulation in those parts." The movement for a colony in South Australia was then first chronicled in the Sydney Press, though taking four more years to mature. During 1831 three thousand prisoners had arrived in 19 ships. The Editor expected that most of them "will become useful servants and mechanics, and ultimately improved members of society."

Printing tenders for Government work were opened February 2nd, 1832, marking a new Press era. The *Gazette* obtained the prize at £400, about a quarter of what it had cost the State before, though far below prices tendered by the other colonial printers.

On February 13th appeared this advertisement: "The advantages of advertising in the *Sydney Herald* must be evident to the public, when they are informed that it has nearly eleven hundred subscribers, which is considerably more than any other Sydney journal." On the same day was another advertisement of an appreciative character to Press proprietors:—

"We, the undersigned, friends of A. E. Hayes, Esquire, editor of the *Australian* newspaper, hereby invite the friends of Mr. Hayes and the Public to meet at Cummings' Hotel, on Wednesday next, at 12 at noon, in order to suggest the adoption of such means as may be considered most eligible, for the expression of the patriotic exertions of Mr. Hayes, and of the losses and privations sustained by him in the prosecution of his editorial duties."

At that meeting Mr. W. C. Wentworth took the chair, and it was then resolved to make up a purse for Mr. Hayes from subscriptions of not more than one pound from a subscriber.

The police reports of the period were given in a lively strain. Thus: "William Yellow, as black as charcoal, tipped up five lily vites to save himself from being raised in the world." "Charlotte Swivel, for being in an elegant resort, discussing a divided kidney and a glass of gin twist, was consigned to the 'mother of the maids' for one month."

The *Herald* had a useful "Sydney General Trade List," giving exports and imports of arrivals and departures, with inward and outward movements of coasting vessels. It was notified on March 20th, 1832, that the *Herald's* country subscribers were more than those of all other colonial papers collectively. Again was the promise given that the bi-weekly was shortly to appear. The paper's views were then referred to: "It is not necessary for us to recall the politics or the general conduct of our paper. We have uniformly acted in the most independent manner; and while we have steered clear of abuse of private character, we have never imputed improper motives to public men in executing public measures. With a command of the most powerful engine for detraction and obloquy in our hands, we have never abused it."

The price of the two numbers was to be 8s. per quarter in Sydney, but half-a-guinea for the country. Advertisers were reminded that the circulation was then nearly twelve hundred, more than of all other Sydney journals together.

A coming journal is thus advertised, May 7th, 1832: "Prospectus of a new weekly newspaper, to be published every week, on a day to be determined upon, by Arthur Hill. Price 5s. per quarter; to be called *Hill's Life in New South Wales*. It will be left to the elder journals to teach philosophy and deep politics. *Hill's Life in New South Wales* will give the politics of the Mother Country and the Colony in the way of narrative and fact rather than discussion. Trials—which afford amusement as well as information—will be fully reported. It will comprise chiefly matters of amusement. His Excellency having sanctioned the opening of a Theatre in Sydney, a space in *Hill's Life* will be set apart for a correct report of the amusements of the house. Select and original poetry, particularly of a humorous kind, will occupy a first place." &c.

A poem on "The Printer" contains these lines:—

"Who is it, gentle reader, who  
That labours hard in pleasing you,  
By telling all that's strange and new,  
And very often what's untrue?  
The Printer."

Another journalistic venture is advertised, July 2nd, 1832: "On an early day will be published the *Australian Chronicle*, or *Agricultural, Commercial, Literary, and Political Register*, a new weekly journal, to be edited by the Rev. Ralph Mansfield (for the last three years and a half Editor of the *Sydney Gazette*."

The prospectus points out that "eight years ago there was in the Colony but one solitary newspaper, and that burdened with the galling impost of a censorship." The Editor is styled "a practised veteran in Australian literature in both colonies." We are told that "the main object of the *Australian Chronicle* will be to collect local intelligence, and especially such facts as are connected with the development and progress of our internal resources."

As to its sentiments: "Whatever these may be, they will be *honestly formed* and *frankly expressed*. All the discussions of this journal, touching national politics, will be based on the axiom that the monarchy and aristocracy are valuable, for the sake of their subserviency to the popular welfare, and no further. The local government will be regarded as a stewardship; the people as its constituents. Harmless amusement will be blended with useful information. The terms, 5s. per quarter."

Notice is also directed by the *Herald* to a "Moral Poem" composed on the voyage to Sydney; and a "Latin grammar for the use of the students in the Australian College." The farmers' petition to the Council to prohibit brewing from sugar, so as to promote the growth of corn, was defended by a correspondent, who signed himself "John Bull, and a lover of good beer." He told the public of his success in a beer he made, "of which no man could drink half a gallon and leave the house."

The Editor of the *Australian Chronicle* advertised for an expression of his subscribers' views as to Friday or Saturday being the day of publication. "The New South Wales Calendar and General Post Office Directory" came forth in 1832.

The earliest theatrical advertisement appeared August 20th, 1832: "Theatre Royal, Sydney. His Excellency the Governor having been graciously pleased to grant me a licence for a Theatre in Sydney, for which I shall for ever feel thankful, and as the fittings up of an establishment of this description will be attended with considerable expenses as to scenery, properties, dresses and decorations, the proprietor purposes shortly to give his 'At Home,' to which His Excellency has also been pleased to grant permission, for the purpose to enable the advertiser to accomplish his object in view. I am satisfied that the public are aware of my losses in attempting to introduce into Australia a species of amusement both moral and entertaining, and that, too, at my individual expense. The very liberal patronage of a generous public the advertiser does not question, and he respectfully begs to acquaint them, that, for a few nights only, he intends being 'At Home' prior to the opening of the Theatre Royal, Sydney.—(Signed) Barnett Levy."

"Levy at Home" was celebrated September 10th, 1832, at the Royal Assembly Rooms. It was reputed an imitation of the "At Homes" held by Mr. Matthews, consisting of amusing songs and recitations. Admission was 5s. Mr. B. Levey, *alias* Levy, hinted: "On so arduous an undertaking it is hoped no repetition of the songs will be called for."

A supplement, September 20th, has an advertisement of six columns, close print, by the Rev. Dr. Lang, *re* his difference with the Council of the Australian College. One advertised his teaching "shorthand, as it is written by the London reporters, in four lessons of an hour each—two-thirds of the words in any discourse are written with a single stroke of a pen."

Printing troubles are described in an advertisement of October 8th by the Editor of the *Australian Chronicle*. He "begs to express to his numerous subscribers his regret that his endeavours to procure, either in this or in the sister colony, an adequate supply of printing materials have proved unsuccessful. To this circumstance alone is the delay of his publication attributable. But he has the pleasure to add, that he has ordered from London a complete stock of entirely new type and other materials; and having formed a connection with a gentleman in the printing business, he will be enabled, in the course of a few months, to bring out his journal in the first style of typographical respectability."

The *Herald* of October 25th had some curious specimens of English ignorance of Australia. Mr. Hume declared the colonists were under the blackest tyranny. Lord Howick publicly defended Governor *Arnold*. By Mr. Dixon, "Botany Bay, with its dense population, is represented as the focus of disaffection, and the flame is said to be raging on the banks of the Murray." The London *Atlas* declared that New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land were abandoned by all judicious settlers, and that possessions there are held at the mouth of the pistol.

Postal charges on newspapers are noted in an advertisement from E. S. Hall, of the *Monitor*, in November, when announcing his two papers a week at fourpence instead of ninepence, leaving country subscribers to settle with their local postmaster for postage. "It is to be hoped," said he, "that on petition, the present Government of New South Wales will not continue the tax of postage on newspapers, especially as, owing to the late great reductions in their price, the said tax now amounts to one-fourth of their value."

The Theatre Royal announced, for the Christmas Holidays, "Black-eyed Susan," "Monsieur Tonson," and the "Tale of Mystery." Boxes, 5s.; pit, 3s. Dr. Lang advertised, December 13th, 1832, a meeting of Presbyterians to form a Presbytery.

With the new year, 1833, the Editor has to express thanks for past favours. "We have," said he, "spared no cost or labour to give effect to the extensive and increased means at our command. In a few months we shall be enabled to increase the quantity of matter, without additional expense to our subscribers."

A poem called "Australia" was to be published by subscription at 5s. Mr. E. S. Hall addressed a notice to the subscribers of the *Weekly Observer*: "Mr. Arthur Hill having suspended the publication of his journal, the *Weekly Observer*, late *Hill's Life*, I beg leave to be allowed to transmit to your several addresses Saturday's copy of my journal, the *Sydney Monitor*, chargeable at the same rate as the *Weekly Observer*, namely, five shillings per quarter."

The four pages are continued in the *Herald* for 1833, though with more frequent supplements of two pages. Monday and Thursday are the days of publication. Apology is offered in the last paper of that year for the omission of much news, and even some advertisements, "owing to the great influx of advertisements and the length of the 'Government Gazette.'" The Editor then remarks: "On the arrival, however, of the 'Martha,' which is daily expected, we intend to enlarge this journal, when we shall be able not only to insert all their favours, but also to give such an extensive variety of information as will retain for the *Sydney Herald* that extensive patronage which it has hitherto so pre-eminently enjoyed."

For January, 1834, we have the four pages, with a supplement usually, and a paper 22 inches by 14½ and 15 inches, one supplement of two pages being nearly 23 inches long. On March 3rd the paper is 23½ by 18, four pages of seven columns each. Monday and Thursday are still the days of issue. Supplements, however, are rare. Prices remained the same. Paper was not consistent in quality or size. Thus, it was 24 inches by 18 inches December 8th, but 22½ inches by 17 inches three days after, though restored to full extent on the 15th inst.

The order of 1834 is carried on in 1835, four pages upon Monday and Thursday.

In the last number for 1835 is advertised the *Australian Magazine*, which was to appear in January, 1836, as a monthly, under the editorship of Mr. F. Stephen, price half-a-crown. It is added: "The proprietors do not deem it necessary, in advertising their intention, to detail at length the plan which it is proposed to pursue, still less to make any pledge as to the opinions on political or other subjects which they may hereafter adopt."

The enlargement of the *Monitor* was then advertised by Mr. Hall, who returns his thanks for ten years' support. "Mr. Hall's principles," he states, "with respect to advocating the rights of the Emancipists, and the few rights which the law leaves to the prisoner, remain unaltered." Yet he writes: "The undersigned will never consent to draw a line between the emigrants and freed prisoners, merely as such. He considers the free and freed as one class, possessing equal rights."

Though it is unnecessary in this limited space to go beyond the few early years of the *Herald's* career, some notices of this paper may be cited. As an adjunct to the *Herald*, a weekly *Trade List and Shipping Gazette* was started in 1843, though ultimately merging into the *Sydney Mail*, in 1860, as the *Weekly Herald*."

Gordon and Gotch's *Handbook* kindly says: "The paper has never been in the habit of identifying itself with any particular party that may be in power, but has always held itself free to criticise and condemn, or to support, as it has thought necessary, in the public interest." It had the valued aid of Mr. G. O'Shaughnessy, of the Rev. Ralph Mansfield, and of the able Rev. John West in its earlier years.

The Rev. Dr. Lang, a very Bedouin of the political press, had no kind opinion of the *Herald*, when he could write: "The present proprietors of this paper are Messrs. Kemp and Fairfax, the former a High Church Puseyite, the latter a deacon among the Independents, but both uneducated and mercenary men, who have no idea beyond that of gain, and who have uniformly been opposed to everything like popular freedom and the rights of men. Their principal writer for many years past has been the Rev. Ralph Mansfield, a Wesleyan preacher." He then gives some doggerel, reflecting, in coarse language, upon the last-named Editor; the first verse being—

"Ye freemen and bondmen and ticket-of-leavers,  
Ye Sydney insolvents and Sydney receivers,  
Ye men that can *do the boys*, list to my story,  
Of a Methodist preacher all in his glory."

Mr. Barton has a capital notice of the *Herald* in his "Literature of New South Wales." But it was to the tact, energy, and business capacities of Mr. Fairfax that the paper was mainly indebted for its safe passage through tempestuous weather, its prosperous way with more propitious gales.

Born in Warwick, 1804, suffering in trade for liberal opinions in Leamington, he went with his family to Sydney in 1838. Awhile engaged at the public library, he spent off-hours in the *Herald* printing office. No less prudent than skilful, he was eventually able, by union with the reporter, Mr. Kemp, to secure the paper. Here his untiring energies and commercial ability had full play, and received abundant reward. A visit to England in 1851 was the occasion for a full payment of old obligations, and the procuring of better press materials. The gold fields placed the *Herald* on an eminence as safe as it was honourable. Mr. Fairfax was essentially a worker for the public good. He laboured to establish the Mutual Provident Institution, to liberalize the State school system, to extend freedom without revolution, and to favour all religious movements that raised humanity. He died in June, 1877, in the esteem of fellow-colonists, having successfully outlived all "Early Struggles of the Australian Press."

The NEW SOUTH WALES MAGAZINE had its birth August 1st, 1833. It was of small octavo size, containing sixty-four pages, printed by Ann Howe for the sole proprietor, Ralph Mansfield.

The "Avant Coureur," as the introduction was styled, had these remarks: "Our first number is now before the Public, and as specimens are better than professions, we might leave our readers to judge for themselves as to the future character of the *New South Wales Magazine*. But the value of a house cannot be estimated by a brick taken from its walls; and, although our present publication is one for which we have no cause to blush, we would beg our patrons to regard it as merely the first stone of a superstructure on which we trust. Such of our contributors as have had time to prepare their lucubrations, have laboured comparatively in the dark, and with materials procured entirely by themselves. The work for which they were providing was not before them—it was only *in posse*—its shape, its spirit, its cast of thought was not there to stimulate and to guide. The *New South Wales Magazine* will not be wedded to any party, but will endeavour to maintain the position of an impartial umpire. The Magazine will thus form, not a nucleus of homogeneous principles or prejudices, worked up or softened down to a standard previously fixed by the Editor, but, on the contrary, an arena accessible to all seekers after truth, where they may challenge and obtain 'a fair field and no favour.'"

The frontispiece is a particularly well-executed engraving of the courses of the Rivers Hawkesbury, Warragamba, &c., to illustrate the account of that region. There is a story of the Aborigines, a notice of Australian Literature, articles on the Transportation System, Natural History, and the Trigonometrical Survey of the Colony, a poem on Australia, "A Day with Sir Walter Scott," and the Historical Register of the Colony's Government. The eighth number came out in February, 1834.

In the Preface to Volume I. we read: "This publication was undertaken as an experiment, and as an experiment from which many would have been deterred by the fate of previous trials. Several works of a similar character were started at different times some years ago; but it was found that the reading public was then too scanty to afford them adequate support, and their proprietors having sustained no small pecuniary loss, they were discontinued." But this attempt, like the others, proved unfortunate.

In May, 1821, was the *Australian Magazine, a Compendium of Religious, Literary, and Miscellaneous Intelligence*, printed by George Howe. It had thirty-two pages, costing fifteen pence the copy. It was little worth, and soon expired. There was a good *Australian Magazine* in 1838.

#### "THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL."

It was in May, 1833, that Mr. N. L. Kentish, a Government Surveyor, advertised in the *Sydney Herald* the long prospectus of his *Sunday Newspaper and Magazine*, including a History of Australia, and a poem. Some extracts therefrom will have an interest now:—

"The *Surveyor-General*, or General Surveyor, not of 'all the located and unlocated lands, roads bridges, and public works within the territory of New South Wales,' but of all public institutions and public characters, in particular of the Press, comprehending a *Survey* of the religious, moral and political, internal and commercial state of affairs in Australia and of British and European politics; with miscellaneous matter of amusement or information, designed, as far as practicable in a Newspaper, 'to blend both profit and delight in one,' including a 'Poet's Corner.' This paper, which will be literally dedicated in a peculiar manner to *the Public*, it is obviously made the pecuniary interest of the Public to support.

"The *Surveyor-General* will consist of sixteen quarto pages, four of which will be devoted exclusively as a Magazine to Religion and Morality, entitled 'The Christian.' Four more pages will be exclusively devoted to Australian Affairs. The first four and four last pages will be devoted to Miscellanies. The Religious and Moral publication, as it will be quite original, will be, as the Apostles were, 'sent forth to all the world.' At present there is no such periodical in existence in Australia, where, of all countries on the face of the earth, religion and morality are at their lowest ebb."

He took the occasion to make the Public acquainted with his qualifications, which, truly enough, were respectable, as was his personal character. His mode of conducting business might afford a hint to other projectors of newspapers:—"These are the terms: One shilling each number, or two guineas per annum, postage free; but the names of Subscribers will be carefully registered as received, and when the number amounts to 500, 50 per cent., or one-half, shall be deducted from the first 100 Subscribers; when they amount to 700, 25 per cent. shall be deducted from the second 100; when they amount to 1,000, 25 per cent. shall be deducted from the first 500; and 12½ per cent. from the said 1,000."

Though the *Surveyor-General* never appeared, Mr. Kentish did bring out the bi-weekly paper under another title, the *Sydney Times*. It would, indeed, have been invidious indirectly to perpetuate his disagreement with his former official head of the Survey Department.

Mr. Kentish, the originator of this paper, a man of honour and character, was generally regarded as talented and enterprising, but neither judicious nor patient. In establishing the *Times* in 1834, he set up the loftiest ideal, and was actuated by pure and enlightened motives; but his susceptibility of temperament, and his unpractical methods of procedure, exposed him to continual sources of irritation, and thwarted his most energetic resolves.

The *Sydney Times* was presented on Friday, August 15th, 1834, in four pages, twenty inches by fourteen, five columns a page, and was to be a bi-weekly. The type was generally small. The price was 2d. per copy, or 4s. 4d. the quarter for Sydney subscribers, 6s. 6d. for country ones. To encourage advertisers, there was an assurance given of a circulation of 2,000, while a copy of the first number was left at every house in town. For eight lines the charge to advertisers was half-a-crown, with a penny for each line in excess. No. 1 had sixty-four advertisements.

Its Leader said: "Whilst 'open to all parties,' we trust that our independence of principle will uphold us in being 'influenced by none.' Whilst the several Colonial Newspapers with which we aspire to the connection of a junior contemporary are principally filled, for the edification of their readers, with the highly interesting subjects of 'Horrible Systems,' and abuse, personality and recrimination towards each other, dealt out with or without humour, with or without acrimony, with or without egotism, with or without discretion, it shall be our chief aim and our unremitting endeavour to 'Advance Australia,' by which we mean simply to promote the information, and, with it, the wealth, the prosperity, and the happiness of 'the Land we live in,' by emulating the better portion of the Free Press of our accomplished Mother Country."

#### "THE SYDNEY TIMES."

The Conductor declares for "a temperate, but unshackled discussion of all public men and measures." Upon the vexed question of the day, it is asserted: "We are convinced that, in nine cases out of ten, the Emancipists display a feeling towards the side of honour and superiority in preference to that of vice and degradation." Possessed of this worthy idea, Mr. Kentish truly believed that "A Prisoners' Journal will therefore be but indifferently supported."

Future literary and moral plans are thus dealt with in an Editorial notice: "The Public is respectfully informed that the *Sunday Magazine* will be resumed and published with regularity as soon as a certain number of Subscribers shall be obtained from the country, to add to about 150 names already entered in Sydney. This being the first publication attempted in Australia having for its object the dissemination of religious knowledge and principles, and the promotion of social morality, it is early hoped that the *Christian* will be supported by all who wish to promote the advancement of Australia in respectability of character."

The *Times* was printed by William Jones for the Editor, Proprietor, and Publisher, Nathaniel Lipscomb Kentish. On September 30th, 1834, thirteen columns out of twenty were filled with advertisements, and the list of Subscribers reached 1,130. Subsequently this comparison was made: *Times*, 1,371 subscribers; *Herald* (possibly), 823; *Monitor*, 537; *Australian*, 444; *Gazette*, then called the *Prisoners' Friend*, at the very utmost, 333. The Editor modestly notified: "Our character being established as the vehicle of the Australian Muse, in justice to our readers and ourselves, we are compelled to select for our "Poet's Corner" such pieces only as will do credit to our reputation."

A *Sydney Times Extraordinary* was issued Monday, July 2nd, 1838, price half-a-crown, though only four pages of six columns each, with no advertisements. Mr. Kentish's address to the Inhabitants occupied three and a-half columns, and his Memorial to the Queen, upon Colonial Affairs, six columns. There was, also, the reprint of five of his Leaders in the *Times*.

But the *Extraordinary* was a notice of retirement, for it added: "As an Editor and Publisher here, or in England, in conjunction with the duty of a Colonial or Emigration Agent, the undersigned will, so soon as opportunity may serve, respectfully ask for the support of all who may deem him worthy of being employed in their service." At the same time he sent the Subscribers his card as Civil Engineer and Surveyor, soliciting engagements. But the "Early Struggles of the Press" appear in the following: "To our Subscribers—It will hardly be credited by the Public that the acting manager for the Proprietors of this Paper has been annoyed—in fact, ruined—for want of £45 whilst £1,300 or £1,400 were upon his books, of which £1,000 or £1,200 still remain unpaid. Had the Editor inserted any advertisements, he would have been bound in honour to circulate 2,500 copies of this Publication, upon the faith of which pledge they were sent to him; but publishing none, he is at liberty to do what he will with his own. Accordingly, he begs to present a copy to each of his

Subscribers, and to them only. The residue he will forward to England (in the hope of their being of greater service there than here in this country), except such as may be applied for at the *Times* Office at half-a-crown each."

#### "THE COLONIST."

This "Weekly Journal of Politics, Commerce, Agriculture, Literature, Science, and Religion," came out under the auspices of the talented, but belligerent, first Presbyterian clergyman of Australia, Dr. Lang. Some may remark that, in the subjects to be treated, Politics stood first and Religion last. Still, great merit is due to Dr. Lang for his advocacy of moral duties, and his denunciation of vice. He was ardently devoted to Australia, and, perhaps, did more for its social and political advancement than any other colonist.

Though his hand was ever present in the paper, we read that it was "Edited, Printed, and Published by Kenneth Munro, sole Proprietor, Australian College Buildings, Sydney." The eight small pages carried each four columns. The subscription was 6s. 6d. per quarter; advertisements, 2s. 6d. for eight lines. The thirty-three advertisements in the first number (January 1st, 1835) are of a very general character; the Australian College and Dr. Lang's books being prominent among them. The first number has an Introduction of nearly eight columns; Sir John Herschel's beautiful Address to the Windsor Library, of five columns; Religious Intelligence, four columns; two columns on Colonial Statistics, and one column on Colonial Exports.

The Address to the Public has, of course, much to say of Dr. Lang. It speaks of the opposition of the *Gazette*, *Australian*, and *Monitor* to his favourite College Scheme, and to his Scotch immigrants. We are told that, "To keep the Australian College above water, Dr. Lang was obliged to sell two valuable properties belonging to his family in Sydney." Then we have this dash at the *Herald*: "But the Editors of the *Sydney Herald*—those young men who place all their glory in moderation, forsooth, who are neither Whigs nor Tories, that is, have no fixed principles either in politics or anything else, but who always look how the wind blows before they write, or, to speak more correctly, before they print what happens to be written for them—allowed the Australian College to be all but put down, and Dr. Lang to be all but sacrificed, without saying a syllable to prevent either one or the other."

The Address says: "The Public may rest assured that the *Colonist* Newspaper has not been got up as a mere money-making speculation by one or more hopeful adventurers bred merely to the printing business, who employ some good-natured person to write for them from behind the curtain, and whose whole and sole object is to establish themselves in a profitable concern, to fill their sheets with advertisements, and to sell as many copies of it as possible. It will not be the mere organ of a party taught to repeat its parrot notes agreeably to a lesson previously got by heart. The political principles of the *Colonist* will exhibit themselves in the meting out of impartial justice, both to the Government and the Public. It will assume the measures of Government to be right till they are proved to be wrong. It will lend its influence towards the attainment of Liberal institutions, or, in other words a House of Assembly for this Colony."

The press employed in printing the *Colonist* is declared to be "a Columbian press, from the manufactory of Messrs. Clymer and Dixon, of London, and the largest, in all probability, that has ever crossed the Line. The type is new and in excellent order, including a large supply of book and jobbing type, as well as Greek founts; it being intended to print class-books, &c., for schools and colleges generally throughout the territory."

Number 2 opens with a slashing leader on "The Emigration Job" in eight and a-half columns. The Temperance Society is allowed two columns; and the review of Dr. Lang's History of the Colony, copied from the *Printing Machine*, of London, takes over more than three columns, to be continued. The advertisements occupy eight columns of the thirty-two. The following issue, on the third Thursday of January, leads off with "Emigration, and No Job." A piece called "Rum Poetry" thus begins:—

"Let the devotee extol thee,  
And thy wondrous virtues sum;  
By the worst of names I'll call thee,  
O, thou hydra-monster, Rum!"

Long leaders on Education next engage the writer. A meeting of the Australian School Society Branch of the British and Foreign School Society is reported, February 5th. At it the Rev. Mr. McEncroe declared that his Church of Rome had ever been most solicitous for the teaching of the young, though objecting to the use of the whole Bible in schools. The *Colonist* remarked: "Mr. McEncroe, as an Irishman, naturally wishes that this colony should henceforth and for ever be treated as an Irish colony, and not as a British nation." Scottish religious affairs are well set forth.

Dr. Lang early fell foul of the *Herald*, saying: "When attacked by that Paper a few weeks ago, I wrote a letter to the Editors explaining the circumstances out of which that most unmerited attack had arisen; but the greedy creatures would not insert it unless it should be paid for as an advertisement."

In March, under the head of "The Bible, a safe book for persons of all ages and of every standing," there is a vigorous charge at the pamphlet of the Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, the Roman Catholic Vicar. The various professions are discussed in several numbers. Coming to the Literary Profession, Dr. Lang has something personal to remark:—

"Fortunately for ourselves, however, and perhaps also for the Public, we care little for personal vituperation. And lest any of our contemporaries, who delight in blackguardism and abuse, should feel themselves under any restraint in writing about us, we beg to inform them for their future comfort that, whatever lengths they may go to in that way, they cannot possibly incur any danger of an action at law from any of the parties connected, either directly or indirectly, with this paper, as it is contrary to our principles to prosecute any man merely for defamation of character."

In that article is this reference to the *Sydney Gazette*: "It was subject to the most rigid censorship, and when Governor Bligh's authority was subverted by the worthies of the 102nd Regiment (New South Wales corps) its publication was altogether suspended, the insurrectionary government rightly conceiving that the less that was said of them the better. In so far as the getting up of the *Sydney Gazette* depended on its founder, Mr. George Howe, it was a temperate and creditable Paper—submissive, of course, to a degree of absolute servility, to the Colonial Government, but in other respects by no means offensive to the community. . . . In the year 1824 the Colonial Press was relieved from the censorship, but the *Gazette* continued as obsequious and as servile to the Govern-

ment as ever, and was conducted, till the late Editor's sudden death in the month of January, 1829, as if the Editor's situation had been that of mastiff to his Excellency."

Again: "At Mr. Howe's death the *Gazette* was a splendid property, realising, according to his own testimony, upwards of £3,000 per annum. Under Mr. Mansfield's management it fell off, however, considerably." He added, respecting the *Herald*: "That paper was established at the suggestion of a literary man in the colony solely in consequence of the notorious mismanagement of the *Gazette*, and the unprincipled recklessness that distinguished the opposition Press at the period we refer to."

Of the *Australian*, he reported: "As long as it continued to be managed by Mr. Wentworth and Dr. Wardell, although its spirit and principles were altogether opposed to those which Christianity inculcates, it was an ably conducted and powerful paper. From the time, however, when its property was disposed of to four Sydney auctioneers, to the present time, when it rejoices in the management of two colonial attorneys, it has altogether failed to occupy that place."

Of the *Monitor*, under Mr. Hall, Dr. Lang writes: "The principles of that Paper have been, perhaps, still more exceptionable than those of any other Paper in the colony. Educated as a Protestant, and giving himself out even as a teacher of religion in this colony, Mr. Hall has at one time been strongly advocating the cause of the Deists, and at another doing all he could to recommend the delusions and the moral desolation of Popery to this community. This was doubtless all in the way of trade. As for Mr. H.'s patriotism, it is like Anacreon's locks, an absolute nonentity." It was rather unnecessary for the Doctor to add: "We utterly disclaim all personal and resentful feelings in the preceding remarks." He was only actuated, in thought, by a high sense of duty in that criticism.

"Errors in the Press" is dealt with by another in the *Colonist* of May 7th. He notes many typographical errors in the *Gazette*, and regards the *Australian* as "a blunderer of the first water." He declares the *Monitor* "prints on any paper that comes to hand—crown, demy, or royal—and when these cannot be had, pastes two pieces together, and tells his subscribers that he is expecting supplies from England." The *Herald* was "chiefly made up of extracts from old newspapers and older periodicals," and therefore is more correct than if dealing with "cramped pieces of penmanship."

First once a week, the *Colonist* became afterwards a bi-weekly, but it ultimately sank, like so many others had done, in 1840. While admitting the fierceness with which the paper attacked, it must be admitted that its battles were generally in the cause of righteousness, and for the well-being of the colonists. The Press was certainly elevated and purified by the *John Knox* of Australia.

#### "THE ATLAS."

This Paper, started November 30th, 1844, as a twelve-paged weekly, though only living four years, exercised no small influence in political circles. It was the powerful organ of the policy of Squatters, in opposition to that of Governor Gipps, who sought to restrain the Lords of the Wastes. Among its able writers were Mr. Robert Lowe, then a Sydney barrister, and one of the most caustic of critics, whether in the New South Wales and British Parliaments or as contributor to the Sydney *Atlas* and the London *Times*. Others on the *Atlas* came afterwards forward as distinguished statesmen and accomplished debaters—as Messrs. Martin and Forster.

#### "THE AUSTRALASIAN CHRONICLE."

This organ of the colonial Roman Catholics began August 2nd, 1839. Its object is thus stated: "To explain and uphold the civil and religious principles of the Catholics, and to maintain their rights, will be the primary objects of the *Australasian Chronicle*." Mr. Duncan, once a Presbyterian minister, became the Editor. Well printed for the period, it continued for some years, though under altered names, as the *Morning Chronicle*, &c. Its motto was, "Be just, and fear not; let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy Country's, thy God's, and Truth's" (Shakespeare). The *Chronicle* Company bought out *Bent's News and New South Wales Advertiser* after two years' run.

It was with just pride that the Editor could write on January 1st, 1842: "With this day's publication we begin the year 1842, and the fourth volume of the *Australasian Chronicle*. We greet our readers with the sincere wish of 'A happy new year.' The past has certainly been one of severe trial to the prosperity of the colonists, individually and collectively; and, in the midst of commercial difficulties almost unexampled, our prospects have not been cheered by any effort to ameliorate our political condition on the part of our rulers here or at the helm of affairs in England. It is extremely gratifying to us to find that our exertions (unaided as they are, save by the pecuniary contributions of our supporters) have obtained for this journal a rank and influence, both in the colony and out of it, which its projectors never could have contemplated."

As the Colonial Catholic organ, it was natural to find the following praise from the London Catholic organ, the *Tablet*: "The Press in New South Wales.—The first Paper in point of ability in this colony, and the second in point of circulation, is the Catholic Paper, the *Australasian Chronicle*, which, under the able editorship of Mr. Duncan, is rendering good service to the Catholic cause."

The paper was then the full size of 23 inches by 10, four pages of six columns each. Though there were no Government advertisements, there were ninety-eight others. Catholic schools and Catholic books were advertised. Among the latter were "The Holy Catholic Bible," 13s.; "The Universal Reader," 2s. 6d.; "The Complete Spelling Book," 2s. 6d.; "The Geographical Class Book," 1s. The terms at the Catholic Boarding School, Windsor, were then £22. A Masonic Institution was advertised.

It contained O'Connell's letter to the Hon. Mr. Smyth, M.P.; the letter of Mr. C. Buller to the "Patriotic Associations" of the colony; articles affecting Roman Catholics; and the letter in which Mr. O'Connell refused his autograph to a lady, who sought it on account of the Czar of Russia, because of the Emperor's cruelty to Poland, and his persecution of Catholic Christianity. Total Abstinence and Temperance Societies then commanded excellent space in the *Chronicle*; one Catholic temperance meeting had four columns devoted to it.

Freedom of the Press is the subject of Editorial exultation, January 4th, 1842: "We have at last the pleasure of recording the passing of an Act by the Legislative Council which does real honour to that body. The obnoxious clauses in General Darling's *Newspaper Act* are now expunged from the Statute Book, and the Press is as unfettered in this colony as in any other country. The clause by which an editor could be banished on a second conviction for libel; that which makes the publication of the names of the Editors and Proprietors necessary; that by which common informers were enabled to prosecute for penalties in default of Editors entering into recognizances; that by which recognizances might be forfeited in private libel actions, are all repealed, and the Act, as it now

stands, is entirely divested of its formerly oppressive character. The recognizances now required, if they should be enforced, relate only to convictions for 'blasphemous and seditious libels,' and may be regarded, therefore, as merely nominal by the present conductors of newspapers in New South Wales."

The *Australasian Chronicle* was well got up, and displayed great ability in advocating the Catholic side of all questions.

Between 1830 and 1840 other periodicals saw the light in Sydney. Among these was the bi-weekly *Commercial Journal and Advertiser*, four pages, beginning in 1835, but enlarged to twenty-eight columns, full demy, in 1839. Mr. Barton's notice ran: "More attentive to commercial matters than anything else (1841), passed into new hands, came out as *Free Press and Commercial Journal*, edited by Mr. McEachern, who was Editor of the *Colonist* when it expired."

The *Currency Lad*—of paltry get-up, in four pages, on August 25th, 1832, by an Australian-born Editor, Mr. Horatio Wells—soon came to an end. No copy of the *Alfred*, 1835, was known to Mr. Barton. *Hill's Life in New South Wales* came out July 6th, 1832, but survived only a few months. Macle hose's *Pictures of Sydney and Strangers' Guide in New South Wales* was published in 1839. It was embellished with forty-four engravings, some excellently executed. "The work," said the Author, "is so constructed as to form a faithful record of facts illustrative of the past and present state of Sydney."

The *Sydney Standard and Colonial Advocate* appeared in January, 1839, with four pages of six columns, as the avowed organ of the Church of England. A leader on September 2nd, Number 35, said: "It was once remarked by a Romish divine to a Protestant clergyman that there was, after all, but a paper partition between the two Churches. 'Very true,' said the latter; 'but on that paper is printed the entire Bible.'" The title page was adorned with Crown, Sceptre, and Bible. C. W. Robertson was the proprietor, though it quickly dropped from his hands.

Dr. Lang's "History of New South Wales" and his "Origin and Migration of the Polynesian Nation" were published in 1834; his volume of poems, "Aurora Australis" came in 1826. The "First Fruits of Australian Poetry," by Judge Barron Field, appeared in 1825; W. C. Wentworth's Cambridge Prize Poem, "Australasia," in 1824; "Lays of Leisure," by the Rev. W. B. Clarke, in 1829; and "Stolen Moments, a Short Series of Poems," by Henry Parkes, in 1842. "A Bushman's Love Story," in two volumes, was noticed in 1841.

*Tegg's Monthly Magazine*, Vol. I., March—July, 1836, contained 300 pages. It partly consisted of original articles on general literature, and partly of extracts from British periodical literature, with reviews of books, literary notices, the drama, &c. The Editor, among other things, remarked: "The want of a Magazine whose pages should be devoted to general literature, avoiding the stormy arenas of politics and polemics, and combining amusement with instruction, has long been felt and acknowledged. . . . We call upon all who feel anxious to remove from the land, whether of their adoption or their birth, the stigma under which it has hitherto laboured, to unite with us in endeavouring to render Australia

'Great, glorious and free,  
First flower of the earth, and first gem of the sea.'

Temperance literature began with the *Australian Temperance Magazine* in 1837. The Pledge was then: "We agree to abstain from distilled spirits, except for medicinal purposes, and to discountenance the causes and practice of Intemperance." As a magazine it had but sixteen pages to the number, though reaching a third volume. Dunlop's work was often quoted. At one meeting of the old Temperance Society, the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Rev. Mr. Cowper, the Rev. Mr. Kenny, Dr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Nicholson, Mr. Windeyer, and the Rev. Dr. Lang were speakers.

Upon a recent License Act, the Editor, in 1838, said: "Settlers have now the opportunity of . . . the use of spirits on their estates. They can combine. Let their combination be extensive, and rum will be starved out. Let Settlers take advantage of the proposed enactment, which will require a license to every dealer, and, by not taking out a license, legally bind themselves against the sale and disposal of spirits. . . . When the Settlement of Port Macquarie was founded, Captain Allman perceived there could be no peace while spirit was tolerated; he therefore prohibited it, and order was restored. At Moreton Bay and Norfolk Island the same discipline is pursued."

The *Temperance Advocate and Australasian Commercial and Agricultural Intelligencer* was started October 7th, 1840, as a weekly, by James Reading, for John Fairfax, Editor and Proprietor, in four pages. It was succeeded by the *Teetotaller and General Newspaper* on January 8th, 1842, with four pages. In its 89th number, September 27th, 1843, the year of commercial distress, the Editor was forced to write: "With this number we close our labours, at least for the present. Like its predecessor and harbinger, the *Temperance Advocate*, the *Teetotaller* has been, in a pecuniary point of view, a losing concern, and that from the beginning."

It is amusing to see, in that mythical story of 1835, entitled "Lady Mary Fox's Account of an Expedition to the Interior of New Holland," and the "Discovery in the Interior of New Holland of a Civilized Nation of European Origin," the following: "Newspapers, Magazines, and other periodical publications are abundant and cheap in this country." Of one it is written: "Its conductor was a person of very high character and great attainments." A citizen remarked to the traveller: "You just saw him riding off with our leading Minister. We have several Papers, conducted with various degrees of talent and of every shade and variety of political sentiment. We take care, since newspapers cannot but influence public opinion, to induce men of reputation to engage in this department, by showing that we regard it as a most honourable employment." N.B.—This account referred to the Interior of New Holland, and not to the Seaboard of New South Wales.

The *Temperate Herald* was tried in 1846.

Among other periodicals between 1840 and 1850 may be mentioned the *Guardian*, of 1844, published avowedly for the middle and working classes; *Bell's Life in Sydney*, started as a sporting paper in 1845; the cheap *Age*, of 1845; the *Squatters' Spectator*, 1846; the illustrated and witty *Heads of the People*, of 1847 and 1848; the *Radical People's Advocate*, &c.

Mrs. Meredith has a sketch of the noisy Press times of old, remarking: "My readers doubtless remember the inimitable passages in 'Pickwick,' descriptive and illustrative of the *Estateswill Gazette* and the *Independent*, with the rival editors, Mr. Pott and Mr. Hurk. It is my sincere opinion that some of the Colonial Editors here (New South Wales) have mutually resolved on attempting an exact imitation of the style and manner of those renowned Papers, for their leading articles have a most curious resemblance, fraught with the most deadly hatred of each other and the same



unmeasured powers of abuse and wholesale condemnation. Such terms as 'our base and mendacious contemporary,' 'that tissue of ignorance and conceit, the —;,' 'That mean-spirited creature, whose vile insinuations we despise; together with torrents of 'rascal, liar, scoundrel, fool, venom, viper, toad,' &c., &c., give an indescribable piquancy and interest to their charming productions."

#### "THE OMNIBUS AND SYDNEY SPECTATOR."

This Paper was originated October 15th, 1841, with the motto, "Omnibus audet deterrere nefas." The title page bears the representation of an omnibus with four horses. The Periodical was lively, if not discreet, and sometimes not even decent. Objections are thus met in the "Weekly Notice to Our Readers:" "You rascals! Don't find fault with the epithet, for it is fashionable; it is quite Almackish and respectable in speaking of the poor People of New South Wales, and particularly of all those who patronise a humble, unpretending Omnibus—therefore I say again, you rascals! This comes of your learning to read without going to a proper school, where you might pick up something of the fashions. If we should swear at you a little, or call you names, it is only from a wish to appear fashionable and respectable. You know we would not hurt you, and we give you free leave to laugh at us every Saturday night—till twelve o'clock."

Noticing the *Gazette's* criticism, the Editor exclaims: "We hold a degraded position, in consequence of our not taking some excellent advice, and because we are an Editor of a journal that People read. We pander to the worst passions of the People. For whose passions do they pander who abuse us? To those respectables and exclusives of course who can pay a pander. We are a scurrilous driver. We are known to the *Gazette* as a sinner, not a saint."

Of eight pages, four columns each, the *Omnibus* was published at the *Monitor* Office, at 32s., or 25s. in advance. It was printed and published by H. C. Wilson. There were thirty-five advertisements, paying half-a-crown for eight lines, and a penny a line over.

In the number for October 23rd it is written: "We are an old-fashioned fellow, a gentleman of the old school, and we have a conscience, for which reason we cannot feel comfortable in calling you names, or allowing others to abuse us. We do not want to be a Church-and-State Paper, a Catholic, or an Exclusive Paper, a McArthur Paper, a Sir John Jameson Paper, a Scott-and-Mitchell Paper, or an All-Dicky Paper—in short, we would be the People's Paper, and nothing else, and we would take the Bull by the Horns. We have eleven letters from ladies with blue noses, three from men with wooden legs, nineteen from married men calling on the Public to sympathise with them on account of their *infirmities*, all complaining of personality. If we attended to complaints of this sort we might lay down our pen at once."

H. C. Wilson was declared sole Editor and Proprietor, when removed from the *Monitor* Office. In Number 1 of the New Series, March 11th, 1843, "after a lapse of fifteen months," Mr. Jinks is named Editor; the Paper had then forty advertisements. There is some fun, but more vulgarity; as, "Master Jinks says the Young Gentlemen in the Colonial Secretary's Office had better mind their business, or else he will send old Charley Kelly to birch them."

March 25th gives Captain O'Connell's Address to the Ladies of Sydney; an account of a fight, and a seduction case; queer Notices to Correspondents; and such funny bits as, "A lady in Boston discharged a cook for serving up a half-dressed leg of mutton;" and, "Wanted, a person who can calculate interest upon Promissory Notes, to apply to Mr. Thomas Burdekin."

#### "THE SATIRIST AND SPORTING CHRONICLE."

Something after the *Omnibus* style, this bore as motto, "Fools are my theme, let Satire be my Song." The first number was out on Saturday, February 4th, 1843. There were four small pages of four columns in close and small print, having two advertisements only. The price was sixpence. We see: "Old Pook must forward his six bob, or we cannot receive his contribution. Subscribers only are allowed to scribble for our pages." It was edited, printed, and published by T. R. Johnson.

There were articles on Electioneering, Woolloomooloo Swells, Confessions of a Sponge, The Councillors Called over the Coals, Mr. Macarthur's Speeches, &c. A "Gallant Fight Between Bailey and Rough" is followed by "Nymph's Account of Certain Ladies." A "Peep into Government House" is extremely vulgar, and personal remarks are gross and rude.

In the 11th number it is said: "After the severe reproof which has been administered to us, as well by the Law Officers of the Crown as by private individuals, it seems strange and disgusting that so degraded and contemptible an imitation of our wit and pungency should have issued from such a quarter." This was the *Satirist and Sydney Spectator*, called "a journal of beastiality and low cunning."

The conductor (Dr. Revel Johnson, a surgeon) got a couple of years in prison for libel. Flannagan's "History of the Colony" adds: "The printer and the publisher were severally punished with twelve months loss of liberty. The publication was universally admitted to be a disgrace to the City." Of the Editor, the historian remarked that he, "being too much a man of fashion for his legitimate calling (a surgeon), sought to obtain at once a livelihood and a degree of celebrity, by bringing to the surface that vileness which ought to be permitted to remain shrouded in its appropriate veil of obscurity."

#### "ARDEN'S SYDNEY MAGAZINE."

This young and talented, but impetuous, writer brought out his serial in 1843. In his Address, he said: "*Arden's Sydney Magazine* was established with the design of improving the taste of the Public for literary habits, and of encouraging works of art. More than this, it was commenced with the intention of *discriminating* on the merits of subjects and objects that came within the field of observation. The good people of Sydney, immersed in the darkness of their counting-house labours and opinions, have been long led by the received erudition of Newspapers whose characters are so thoroughly commercial, and nothing beyond it, as their readers:—Newspapers, whose paragraphs and articles, the contributions of charlatans, have been expended on warming into existence the spurious accomplishments of quack professors in the Arts, and the prurient exhalations of colonial self-merit."

Although the October number had good articles upon the Aborigines, Colonial Statistics, Early History of Port Phillip, Disruption of the Church of Scotland, and was adorned with a portrait of Mr. B. Boyd, the great Squatter, the work failed. The *Herald* came down heavily upon the haste evinced in this production, leading Mr. Arden to write: "As we slept, so we fell, and of course the *Herald's* Genius began to worry us immediately, while even the erudite scribes of the *Observer* and *Register* growled over our prostrate body."

"THE WEEKLY REGISTER."

In full, it was the *Weekly Register of Politics, Facts and General Literature*. It began July 29th, 1843. There were the "Political Register," the "Theatrical Register," the "Literary Register." The twelve pages were of large letter-post size. Fifteen advertisements only appeared in the first issue. Under the head of "Political Register" was written: "It is of great importance in a State not only to guard Society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of Society against the injustice of the other part."

The writer, Dr. —, had been long the conductor of the *Chronicle*; hence he said in the Prospectus: "Having been constantly before the Public as a writer for the last twelve years, four of which have been spent in New South Wales, my politics must be generally known." He says the *Register* "will not in any case be a religious journal, except so far as regards a strict adherence to Christian morality and maintenance of perfect religious liberty to all." The latter sentiment is appropriate in a Roman Catholic living among ruling Protestants.

Some excellent articles appear, as, upon "Norse Mythology." A poem on "Love of Liberty," by H. Parkes, declares that

"Earth's guardian minds in every age have hymn'd  
Thy praise, O Liberty! in words of fire."

Number 3 had twenty-three advertisements. The first of the "Heads of the Australian People" to be presented was "The Speaker." Mr. McLeay, came forward August 19th, 1843. Mr. Henry Parkes had a "Thanksgiving of Workmen for British Liberty"—

"We thank Thee, Father, merciful supreme,  
That Thou hast raised o'er us fair Freedom's shield," &c.

The "Political Register" on June 29th, 1844, had a good article on Public Education. The trial of O'Connell naturally occupied a large space.

"THE MORNING CHRONICLE."

The *Morning Chronicle* of Sydney began its course in the middle of 1843 as a weekly Paper. It was a vigorously conducted Roman Catholic organ.

As with other ancient colonial journals, the paper on which it was printed was not uniform in size or quality. Thus, while for the early part of January, 1844, it was 22½ inches long by 15½, it became 23 inches on January 20th, and so continued till November 13th, when it subsided to the 22½.

The number for January 3rd, 1844, was printed and published by Michael D'Arcy, of Bridge Street, Sydney. The price was 10s. per quarter. A correspondent is informed, respecting Delta's sonnet, that the printer had no Greek type. In his New Year's Address, the Editor hopes that "we all, as time advances, shall, *pari passu*, advance in colonial wisdom, and in stature, and in favour with God and Man." He further said: "The Colony now labours under severe collapse and languor. Every department of labour, commerce and industry, seems alike to suffer; everything appears struck with a sort of paralysis, and men in dismay ask, 'What is to become of the colony? Where is all the money gone to?' This is contrasted with a previous day, when the flockmasters "became rich—got carriages, servants, liveries, fine houses, costly furniture; drank Champagne, Johannisberg, and Constantia; became connoisseurs in wines, and *virtuosi* in paintings and works of art." Then came the change: "The banks narrowed their discounts, and smash went the whole of our prosperity, like a house of cards, and vanished as the dream of a drunkard."

A meeting of Catholics was held, it is stated, on New Year's Day, at St. Mary's Cathedral, to consider the expenditure of £30,000 for ecclesiastical purposes by Government. There was an able defence of the Catholic Faith. O'Connell and Repeal took up five columns.

Mr. Cobden is quoted, January 20th, as declaring in Parliament that "all protective duties in favour of colonial produce ought to be abolished." A terrible catalogue of persecuting English laws is presented to the Catholic Press foe—the *Herald*. Father Mathew's Temperance Campaign is extensively recorded. The *Herald's* attack upon Popery is thus treated by the *Chronicle*: "We suppose it must be on Mr. Lowe's principle, that his organ of literary combativeness is so developed and so excited, that he is driven by an irresistible impulse to dogmatise, and so to act

'As if divinity had caught  
The itch—on purpose to be scratched.'

The "Loyal Australian Repeal Association" was the ancestor of later "Home Rule" associations in Australia.

"We sincerely wish," said the Editor, "our worthy brother the *cuisinier litteraire* of the *Herald* would learn to serve up his dishes to the mental table of his readers without spilling his gravy upon us Romanists." He subsequently apologised to his subscribers for devoting five columns of reply to the *Australian's* slander of the Catholic Irish. O'Connell had six columns in a March number.

On the 1st of May we discover that the printer has succeeded in getting some Greek type. It is employed in a reply of eighteen columns (including the Supplement) to some strictures of Dr. Lang's *Colonial Observer* upon Bible Versions. Irish Landlordism and Repeal are also supplied with many columns of the Paper.

*Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* is thus noticed by the *Morning Chronicle* of January 4th, 1845: "We feel satisfied that the favourable anticipations of the sporting fraternity will be realised in Dr. Johnson's publication of this day. The journal proposes to be solely one of entertainment and sport."

The *Sentinel*, a Protestant organ, appeared in Sydney, January 8th, 1845, and excited these remarks from the *Chronicle*: "This journal is the most 'Vicar of Bray' affair we ever beheld." Allusion was thus made to its anti-Popish attacks by the *Morning Chronicle*: "It reminds us of a New Zealander making faces and snorting, shouting, and shaking his tomahawk in a war dance."

The *Herald* was rebuked for approving of female immigrants to counter-balance the exiles to be sent to the new colony of North Australia, which was to be established by the Tory Ministry, then having Mr. Gladstone as Secretary for the Colonies. The Catholic organ of Sydney opposed that attempt "to plunge us back into that quagmire of vice and immorality from which we are only just now beginning to emerge." The two papers were also at issue on the Tahiti question.

Protestant Papers arose to meet the Catholic Organ. The *Colonial Observer*, of eight pages,

dated from October 7th, 1841. Mr. Barton styles this production of the fiery Dr. Lang as "another sectarian journal advocating Evangelical Protestantism, and attacking the Papal System."

The former Editor of the *Chronicle* began, in January, 1843, *Duncan's Weekly Register of Politics, Facts, and General Literature*, lasting three years. Mr. Duncan fought so stoutly against the Squatters, then opposed to the Government, that he secured the comfortable post of Collector of Customs at Sydney.

The *Weekly Sun and New South Wales Independent Press* was contemporary of the *Register*, though looking for support only to the working classes.

The *Voice in the Wilderness* came out January 1st, 1846, with eight pages, 12 by 10 inches, three columns each page. It was to "be devoted to the advocacy of religious intelligence generally; but it will bestow special attention upon all that relates to the great contests between Truth and Error, which forms so striking a feature in the present state and recent history of the Christian Church throughout the world." There was much about Puseyism and the Scottish Free Church. The small vignette on the title page represents the Burning Bush, with the legend around, "And the Bush was not consumed." It was published by Walter Ford, of George Street, Sydney.

#### "FREEMAN'S JOURNAL."

This Roman Catholic Organ was commenced June 30th, 1850, and had the good fortune of receiving some witty and brilliant articles from Mr. W. B. Dalley, an Australian native-born, and an honour to any party of any country.

#### "THE EMPIRE."

Though this, as well as the *Freeman's Journal*, cannot be included among the early Press of the Colony, its struggles, early and late, would entitle it to a place, some may say, in our history. But that which commends it mainly to our consideration is its identification with two most eminent members of the Press—Mr. Bennett, the author of a most reliable work on New South Wales, long working on the *Empire* before connection with the *Sydney Evening News*; and the veteran writer, politician, and Premier, Sir Henry Parkes. The latter gained deserved honour for his able, but trenchant, articles, and his gallant struggle for the *Empire* in its contest with the *Morning Herald*. The final victory rested with the latter, as it did in Melbourne with the *Argus* over the Melbourne *Herald*.

An apology for defeat is presented by Mr. Barton's "Literature of New South Wales":—"As one of the ablest and most consistent advocates of Liberalism, Mr. Parkes (now Sir Henry) was well fitted to carry out the enterprise on which he had entered; but journalism requires something more than political ability to make it successful. Although the *Empire* was well conducted by Mr. Parkes in its political and literary departments, it utterly failed in its commercial relations."

"The *Empire*," wrote Mr. Lang, "was started on the 1st of January, 1861, by Mr. Henry Parkes, a respectable citizen, formerly of Birmingham. It is an ably conducted and highly influential Paper, thoroughly Liberal in its politics."

It was published at the low charge of three-halfpence, though raised to twopence in April. "Our object," said the Editor on January 23rd, "which will be steadily kept in view in this Journal, is the social and political elevation of the working classes. Here at the outset, however, we would state plainly and emphatically, that we have no desire to see the working men, with all the high attributes of the citizen, sunk in the soured character of the politician."

Extracts were weekly given from the Prize Essay, by Rev. S. G. Green, on the Condition of the Working Classes of Great Britain. The Anti-Transportation movement, in which Mr. Westgarth laboured so well, found an earnest friend in the *Empire*. The issue of February 28th, 1862, contained a letter from Smith O'Brien, then a prisoner on a Probation Station in Tasmania.

The four pages (16½ by 10½ inches) had four columns each. The Melbourne *Argus* was prompt to "congratulate our contemporary on the elevation of sentiment discernible through his remarks." If commercially a failure, through mismanagement, the *Empire*, in a political sense, was a great success.

#### LIBERTY OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES PRESS.

ALTHOUGH in previous sketches of the Colonial Press the troubles of writers, not less than printers, have been noted, yet a brief statement of Sydney Press disabilities, especially during the Government of General Darling, seems needful.

As those Press restrictions arose from English Legislation, a reference must be made to some Acts of Parliament.

That of December 30th, 1819, is called "An Act to subject certain publications to the duties of stamps upon Newspapers, and to make other regulations for restraining the abuses arising from the publication of blasphemous and seditious libels." That of 33 Geo. III. was "An Act for preventing the mischiefs arising from the printing and publishing Newspapers and Papers of a like nature by persons not known, and for regulating the printing and publication of such Papers in other respects."

No one could print or publish newspapers or pamphlets without entering into recognizances, or giving bond for securing fines upon conviction for libels. Delivery by printers of newspapers must be made to the Commissioners of Stamps, or be subject to £100 fine. A fine of £20 attended the sale of Papers without stamps. It was not till 1855 that duties were removed from Papers not sent by post.

Upon the English Press Acts, colonial disabilities were founded; but, as will be seen, the Press of Australia got emancipation before that of England.

New South Wales had a *Censorship* of the Press. Some have supposed this was but nominal; but Mr. Howe, with his *Sydney Gazette*, was made to feel the pressure. One who knew him well, writing in the *New South Wales Magazine* for 1833, gives this tale of the past:—"But there was one fatal 'fardel' which Mr. Howe was compelled to bear, and which made him literally

"Groan and sweat beneath a load of life—"

his Paper was subjected to a *Censorship*! What Englishman can endure the thought. A *Censorship* is a damp, we might say an extinguisher, to the energies of genius." "This state of galling bondage ought to be remembered by those who happen to read the primitive volumes of our senior journal. We can bear testimony, from personal knowledge, to the havoc made by the Censor in its

proof sheets. Well do we remember with what pathos its Editor, when conversing with his friends, would descant upon the hardships he had to endure. With the tears rolling down his cheeks, has the hoary veteran detailed to us the horrors he was often and often doomed to feel on receiving back his inspected sheets. Sentences altered till he could scarcely recognise a fraction of their original import—paragraphs struck out which were vital to the sense and consistency of his article, and sometimes whole columns amputated at one remorseless blow—were the sweet rewards of his editorial toils."

Again: "The first instance of anything like political controversy occurred early in 1823, when the Censor, Major Goulburn, with the concurrence of the Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane, intimated to Mr. Howe that his columns might be thrown open to a free discussion. But Sir Thomas was at heart a Liberal; and, being satisfied that the more his financial policy might be sifted, the more would its soundness be ascertained, he ventured to open a free vent for public opinion. We look back to this stirring incident with delight, for it was, in truth, the first faint dawn of Australian Freedom; and in little more than a year after its occurrence, the CENSORSHIP WAS NO MORE. This last triumph occurred in the month of October (1824), when Mr. Howe published in the *Sydney Gazette* an official letter from the Colonial Secretary, announcing that the censorship had been abolished."

Mr. Bennett, the colonial historian, declares that this memorable letter was written on the 15th of October, 1824.

One, writing in 1800, thus spoke of the paper: "A vigilant eye was kept upon it, to prevent the appearance of anything which could tend to shake those principles of morality and subordination, on the due preservation of which depended the individual happiness, and the public security of the Settlement."

When the Chaplain, Rev. J. Marsden, saw a libellous charge upon himself in January, 1817, he complained to the Governor about it. Governor Macquarie, no friend to that busy clergyman, gave him no redress. Appealing to the Judge-Advocate, he heard that the Colonial Secretary would take the responsibility of the article. So Mr. Marsden filed a criminal information against the Colonial Secretary himself, whom he accused as Censor, of being the guilty party. "When the case came to be tried," wrote the clerical author of 'Answer to Calumnies,' "a verdict was given in my favour."

The liberty of the Press was invaded three years after, during the government of General Darling, who bore more resemblance to Captain Bligh than to Sir Thomas Brisbane.

As a first cause of the rupture came the violent strictures of the newly-started papers—the *Australian* and the *Monitor*—upon the severity of the Governor's treatment of two offending soldiers. Stung by their criticism, he made complaint to his superior in office, Earl Bathurst. That minister told him of the remedy. The Sydney Legislative Council had but to pass a law, upon the English model, of Press restriction.

A Bill was proposed to the Nominee Council, April 3rd, 1827, and readily received attention. This was "for imposing a duty upon all Newspapers and Papers of a like nature printed to be disposed and made public." The Government named fourpence; the Archdeacon, sixpence; Mr. Macarthur, the *soi-disant* patriot, one shilling. Fourpence was the sum settled to be paid on each copy so printed for sale. If without a stamp, the penalty was £20.

The severer Act was that "for preventing the mischiefs arising from the printing and publication of such papers in other respects, and also for restraining the abuses arising from the publication of blasphemous and seditious libels." After May 1st, following English law, a certain declaration, or affidavit, had to be signed by printer, publisher, and proprietor, under penalty of £100, while a demand was made for recognizances of £300, and two or three approved sureties for £300, as a means of payment of fines on conviction of libel.

A libel was explained as "tending to bring into hatred or contempt the Government of the said colony, as by law established or to excite his Majesty's subjects to attempt the alteration of any matter in Church or State, as by law established, otherwise than by lawful means." It was added that the second offence under the Act subjected the person to banishment from the colony. Both of the Bills were passed a first time the same day.

Chief Justice Forbes then came to the rescue. The Bill affecting the recognizances and sureties was admitted by him as being consistent with British law, but he stoutly refused his sanction, in an official capacity, to the passing of the Stamp Act, which would be inoperative until his certificate had been given.

Mr. Rusden, in his "History of Australia," quotes from an extraordinary letter of Mr. Macarthur, May 27th, after the refusal of the Chief Justice: "The Governor maintains a profound silence. Four newspapers are published, all in the convict interest, and the editors are all desperate radicals, alike shameless and unprincipled. Our Chief Justice is their idol, and on him they rely for protection, whether their libels be aimed at individuals or against Government. You can have no idea of the operation of these firebrand papers upon the common people."

Thwarted in his object of limiting sales by the imposition of a Stamp Duty, the Governor determined, nevertheless, to make use of the Courts of Law to repress the disposition to libel. As the *Official History* records: "The Governor directed the Libel Law to be put in force with great rigour, and the proprietors of both the *Monitor* and the *Australian* Newspapers were prosecuted, civilly and criminally, and both were heavily fined and imprisoned."

Mr. E. S. Hall was "often fined and imprisoned." He was not treated with Christian courtesy by the Archdeacon, and the Governor withdrew his assigned servants from employment. Messrs. Wentworth and Wardell, of the *Australian*, were fined £100, and sent to prison for six months, for the assertion that the Ruler set up his own will for the law.

General Darling, whose administration was for a time a Reign of Terror, defended himself well with the British Minister, sending answers to the score of charges made by the Press, which, as he remarked, "formidable everywhere, is, from the peculiar composition of this community, extremely dangerous here." He added, "The Papers are totally regardless of all decorum." He deplored their effect amongst the convict population. He told the Secretary in London that the conduct of the *Monitor* "has from the first been seditious and inflammatory in the highest degree."

On December 4th, he wrote: "I am decidedly of opinion, that any restraint which it may be deemed proper to impose on the Press should be effected through the means of Parliament rather than by the local Government, as, whatever may be done in that respect, will, to a certainty, excite feelings of general dissatisfaction here."

Chief Justice Forbes, in writing to Governor Darling, December 1st, 1826, advised a suspension

of local action till they saw what the British Parliament would do. "It is proposed," said he, "that no Newspaper shall be published without a previous license from the Governor, which license shall be made resumable by the Governor under circumstances which, however guarded, do, in fact, reduce the act of resumption to one of mere discretion of the Government." He then quoted the great saying of Lord Ellenborough: "The law of England is a law of liberty; and, consistently with this liberty, we have not what is called an *imprimatur*—there is no such preliminary license necessary."

The *Monitor* of May 11th, 1827, took a business view of paying, every Monday, a thousand fourpences in advance—"so much additional capital that will be hereafter required to conduct the Public Press of these young colonies." The Editor looked to his neighbours, saying: "Now Mr. Howe (*Gazette*) has an extensive stationery warehouse to run to; and Dr. Wardell (*Australian*), by devoting his talents to the Bar, would gain more than he does by his journal. But our subsistence is our Press. This is our 'ewe lamb,' and along with it we have eight others of a more expensive description. But the *profitable* lamb is virtually taken from us, while the flocks and herds of the rich Councilmen are spared."

The *Australian* of May 9th, had: "We exclaim, MONSTROUS! The people parade up and down the streets, meet in groups, and cry, MONSTROUS! The people are horror-struck—they dread the consequences; they justly regard this Act as the precursor of other and of worse Acts." It holds up to ridicule such Councilmen as John Macarthur and Archdeacon Scott, saying: "These are the men who have passed an Act which annihilates the freedom of the British Press in a British Colony. Lead may settle us, but a fourpenny stamp will not; a prison will not; banishment will not."

The prepayment was made; but, as the Chief Justice would not certify the Act, it was dropped silently, and on May 29th the paid Stamp Duty was returned to the printers.

The *Australian* made merry with the Banishment Clause of the Act, exclaiming: "How the members of the House of Commons will crack joke upon joke at the fancy of banishing Editors from Botany Bay! Banishment from Botany Bay! Ha! ha! ha! ha!"

Governor Bourke came to throw oil on the troubled Press waters. The unrepealed Act of 1827 had been amended in January, 1830, the fine being placed at £100 for each offence, and the unlimited banishment period toned down. But the British voice being raised, the *Banishment* item was withdrawn in September, 1831.

A controversy arose in Sir Richard Bourke's time about the employment of a clever convict, named Watts, in the *Gazette* office, who wrote articles in praise of the Governor, and was not, therefore, resumed by Government. Mr. Mudie, a country Magistrate, reported as hard upon his prisoner servants, was the object of severe criticism by Watts. The work of Mr. Mudie, "Felonry of New South Wales," exposed the conduct of prisoner scribes, especially Watts. Dr. Lang honoured the Magistrate in these words: "Your exertions in endeavouring to bring to justice one of the greatest pests of society with which this colony has been afflicted entitle you to the commendation of the colony." Even his whilom patron was eventually obliged to send the man, though then married to the widow of Mr. Howe, to the penal Settlement of Port Macquarie, where he was accidentally drowned.

The "Gagging Act" was long inoperative, though the impetuous Judge Willis, annoyed with the Papers, revived the unused law in 1841, demanding recognizances from Mr. Arden, of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, leading the Editor to observe, November 20th: "When we acquaint the world that this Act arbitrarily provided for the banishment of a party twice convicted of a seditious or blasphemous libel, it will be equally easy to account for their amazement as for the anxiety of the Press to effect its abrogation. To display the whole tyranny of this Act to such of our readers as are unacquainted with the law of libel, we may explain that, as it is in the power of a judge to attach any subject of the Crown for a libel on the administration of justice, and to declare it seditious on the solitary dictum of his own reason, every public writer was at the mercy of one man's passions or prejudices."

On Governor Gipps' visit in 1841 to Melbourne, then a town of New South Wales, he was presented with the following document:—

"THE MEMORIAL OF THE EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS OF NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED AT MELBOURNE  
"Respectfully sheweth—

"That in the year 1827, during the administration of Lieutenant-General Darling, a law was passed by the Governor and Legislative Council, intitled, 'Act for preventing the mischiefs arising from the printing and publishing Newspapers, and Papers of a like nature, by persons not known, and for regulating the printing and publishing of such Papers in other respects, &c.,' which Act has, under your Excellency's administration, been made applicable to Port Phillip.

"The Act of Governor Darling, to which your Memorialists have just referred, was passed at a period when New South Wales was almost exclusively a penal settlement. It is, consequently, altogether unsuitable to the condition of a free colony, several of its clauses being of an excessively severe and stringent character, wholly at variance with the principles of the British Constitution.

"Your Memorialists are, moreover, impressed with a belief that the Act referred to was declared by competent authorities irreconcilable with the spirit of British law, and was, therefore, disallowed by his late Majesty George IV.; and, consequently, that Editors and Proprietors of Newspapers published in Melbourne are placed in the anomalous position of having made applicable to them the provisions of a law which is not in existence.

"Your Memorialists therefore pray that your Excellency will be graciously pleased, at the first Sittings of the Legislative Council, to introduce a Bill relieving your Memorialists from the operation of the Act 8 George IV., and placing the Press of the colony on the same footing as the Press in Great Britain.

"And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c."

The Printers and Proprietors of Newspapers in Sydney forwarded a similar petition in December. The Attorney-General read this, and moved that a Bill be prepared, &c.; the Colonial Secretary seconded the motion. The Governor, as President of the Council, said that the "Banishment Clauses" were not in the laws of England, and he should be glad to see them repealed here, and that any sued for penalties under this Act might apply to stay proceedings under certain circumstances.

The end of the Legislative action is thus expressed by the *Sydney Gazette*: "The Newspaper Act, amended as it now stands, removes the Editors, &c., of the public journals from a position truly degrading, to one more favourable than that enjoyed by their brethren in England or in any of her dependencies."

Governor Gipps observed: "This Act was passed to relieve the Newspaper Press of the colony from what were felt to be the hardships of some enactments passed in the time when General Darling was Governor of New South Wales, and modelled on the 60th Geo. III. c. 8 and 9, which were two of Lord Castlereagh's celebrated *Six Acts* of 1819."

Common informers could no longer trouble the publishers, who were only chargeable on the suit of the Attorney-General. The Press gentlemen, too, were no longer subject to banishment on a second conviction. His Excellency further added: "The only other provision of the Act is the last, which renders it unnecessary that in future the name of the Editor as well as the Proprietor, Printer, and Publisher should be entered at the Office of the Colonial Secretary; and this also is in conformity with the English Law, no mention being made in any English Act of the Editor as a distinct person from the Publisher. The Publisher is, I believe, by the Law of England, considered to be the Editor, and not the person who may write the leading articles, or have the general management of the Paper."

In February of 1841, Newspaper conductors received another source of comfort, it being then determined that Proprietors were justified in continuing the insertion of advertisements, not ordered for any specific number of times, until the same were ordered to be withdrawn.

### EARLY STRUGGLES OF THE TASMANIAN PRESS.

THOUGH the successful establishment of a colony on the banks of the Derwent in Van Diemen's Land was effected in January, 1804, by the removal of a party of prisoners from Port Phillip, where they had been brought from England under Colonel Collins, yet the primitive *Sydney Gazette* on June 12th, 1803, described the earlier settlement of Hobart at Risdon.

Lieutenant-Governor Collins had brought with him to the place he called Hobart Town—the earlier settlement at Risdon having been named *Hobart*—a printing press, type, &c., from England. Though Public Orders were soon printed thereby, it was not until 1810 that an attempt at a newspaper was made. This was the

#### "DERWENT STAR AND VAN DIEMEN'S LAND INTELLIGENCER."

We will first give the several accounts left concerning it. The *Sydney Gazette* of September 1st, 1810, notifies the arrival of the ninth number at Port Jackson, adding: "The production of a periodical Print in an infant sister settlement, must convey to the mind a strong idea of its rapid progress, and of the energy of our liberal Government in countenancing and supporting such exertions as are laudable and beneficial in their tendency. The *Derwent Star* is a neat publication, published every fortnight on a quarto size. It contains the Government Orders and various articles of intelligence, of the style of which the above will serve as a specimen, together with some advertisements. To the public patronage it particularly lays claim as a medium of information devoted to the public use; but, unfortunately, its limited circulation cannot promise any very considerable advantage to those engaged in it. Should any of our Readers, however, incline their aid to the support of this infant production, we beg leave to lay before them the Publisher's proposals, which are as follows:—Subscribers to pay 10s. per quarter, or £2 annually. Single papers are sold at 2s. each." The *Sydney Gazette* received subscriptions for the *Derwent Star*.

Mr. Fawcner's *Launceston Advertiser* had a characteristic Press narrative on August 3rd, 1829: "The first newspaper published in this country was called the *Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*. It was edited by G. P. Harris, Esq., D.S.G. (Deputy Surveyor-General), and printed by George Clark, and, in process of time, Clark, wanting assistance, took as his servant the present printer of the *Colonial Times* (A. Bent), and they for a length of time continued together as master and man; but, by a successful manoeuvre, they—fortunately for the 'errand boy' from the *Public Ledger* Office in Warwick Square, London—disagreed, and the master was dismissed by the Government, and the 'modest Franklin of Tasmania' became sole and original proprietor. This took place some fifteen or sixteen years back, and yet this very modest man, of great literary attainments, would have people to believe that he knows a great deal about Mr. Brougham, at least he has so stated in one of his strictures upon the *Tasmanian*, although he came to the colony a mere boy, and has resided in it sixteen or seventeen years."

The same Paper, addressing the *Colonial Times* on November 9th, said: "Recollect, Egotist, that G. Clark is the Father of the Tasmanian Press, and also that, when you arrived in this country, Glenorchy was cultivated with the hoe, and that some people at that time could scarcely read or write." The last remark refers to Mr. John Fawcner himself, who, as a young man, had a small farm at Glenorchy, outside of Hobart, and was then poor and uneducated.

West's "History of Tasmania" gives us this account:—

"In 1810 Collins attempted to establish a newspaper, the *Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*, printed by J. Barnes and G. Clark at the Government Press, Hobart Town. Though but a quarto leaf, with broad margin and all the contrivances which dilate the substance of a journal, it was much too large for the settlement, where often there was nothing to sell; where a birth or a marriage was published sooner than a paragraph could be printed; where a taste for general literature had no existence, and politics were excluded. The chief contents were droll anecdotes and odd exploits.

"The second number contains a rather pompous account of Governor Macquarie's inauguration at Sydney. The next issue, besides a Government Order or two, describes the feat of Barclay, the pedestrian—a thousand miles in a thousand hours—the wonderful longevity of Joseph Ram, a black of Jamaica, who died in his 140th year; then the greatness of Lambert, whose body weighed 52 lbs. fourteen times told, and who was sent by an inclined plane into his grave. Then follows an eulogy on the Governor's profession, one trial, one ship, two births, and one marriage. The notice of a wedding is characteristic and unique, the first published by the Tasmanian Press: 'On Monday, 20th ult., R. C. Burrows to Elizabeth Tucker, both late of Norfolk Island. They had cohabited together fourteen years, verifying at last the old adage, 'Better late than never.' Such were the topics of this ephemeral journal, which, however, survived the Governor himself."

The "Van Diemen's Land Almanac" of 1829 had this version: "A little newspaper, containing half a sheet of foolscap (?) printed on both sides, called the *Derwent Star*, printed for a few weeks by Messrs. Barnes and George Clark; Governor Collins having brought out a foolscap press, type, &c.,

and his *Orders* having been printed for some time, both at Port Phillip and in Van Diemen's Land under a tree in the woods."

The first issue of the *Star* appeared January 8th, 1810, and was followed by about a dozen numbers, occurring at intervals of a fortnight. The British Museum has a *fac-simile* copy of No. 7, Tuesday, April 3rd, 1810, bearing the following note: "The original *Derwent Star* was printed on two sides of a sheet of printing paper this size [that of ordinary folio letter paper]. The only numbers extant are three issues of No. 7, of which, besides the copy in Mr. Calder's possession, one copy is in the Museum of the Royal Society (Hobart), the other in the library of the Hon. James Reid Scott. In the following, all peculiarities of orthography have been followed."

There is at the top the Royal arms, above which is a star, with a triangle in its centre. The title, THE DERWENT STAR AND VAN DIEMEN'S LAND INTELLIGENCER, is in small caps. Under it are the words "Published by Authority." It is declared to be "Printed by G. Clark, at the Government Press, Hobart Town." The two pages are in two columns each, the paper being nearly a foot square.

No. 7 is wholly taken up with an account of the sudden death, and processional funeral, of the late Lieutenant-Governor (Colonel Collins), who was said to have "departed this life at the age of about fifty-four years." The following lines head the narrative:—

"Alas! what is human life!  
How like the dial's tardy moving shade,  
Day after day slides from us unperceived,  
The cunning fugitive is swift by stealth,  
Too subtle is the moment to be seen!  
Yet soon the hour is up—and, we are gone!"

Among the remarks upon the deceased, it is said: "The person of our late Lieutenant-Governor was graceful and commanding. His manners were affable and kind. He had read much."

The *General Order* for the day observed: "It hath pleased Almighty God to take suddenly from us His Honor," &c. All spirit shops were commanded to keep closed during the day of the funeral, and fifty-seven guns were fired upon the occasion.

In the order of procession, given on the second page, the figure of a coffin is marked, with the names of the bearers, three on each side of it. The chaplain, Rev. R. Knopwood, and the surgeon, Mr. Bowden, headed the party, and not less than six hundred persons followed. On the succeeding Sunday, an eloquent and appropriate sermon was preached in the long room of Government House, the text being from Rev., chap. xiv., verse 13.

Upon the decease of the *Derwent Star*, and after an interval of nearly four years, a fresh attempt was made to get up a newspaper. This, also published by authority, was

#### "THE VAN DIEMEN'S LAND GAZETTE AND GENERAL ADVERTISER."

In the writer's "Curious Facts of Old Colonial Days," is this account of it:—

"The first number is thus dated: 'From Saturday, May 14th, to Saturday, May 21, 1814.' Mr. Barnes is not on the staff, as the only name is 'G. Clark, Printer, Hobart.' The second number is from May 21 to June 4. It was, therefore, a fortnightly production.

"The throes of approaching dissolution may be supposed from the intimation in September: 'Want of type obliges us to delay several other interesting extracts till our next.' There were altogether nine numbers; the last coming September 24th."

Upon the failure of this second attempt to establish the Press in the Southern Isle of Beauty, there was a pause of nearly two years. The exigencies of the Hobart Town Government, rather than the impatience or necessity of the people, led to the origination of the third trial—which proved to be a successful one. That was recognised as

#### "THE HOBART TOWN GAZETTE."

Six years after the departure of the short-lived *Derwent Star*, there arose the *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, "Published by Authority."

The first number, on Saturday, June 1st, 1816, was a half-sheet of foolscap, in two columns on each of the two pages. It was a *manuscript* issue, and was followed by two pages in number 2, but the full sheet of foolscap in number 3. Number 4, of June 22nd, was the earliest *printed* copy. The writing of the three manuscript issues was in the same hand.

Across the page of number 1, under the title, we read: "His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has thought proper to direct that all public communications which may appear in the *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter* with my official signature, are to be considered as official communications to those Persons to whom they may relate.

"By command of His Honor,  
"THOMAS ALLEN LASCELLES, Secretary."

The first Official Order is connected with the observance of the Birthday of George III., on June 4th. On that occasion the soldiers, superintendents and constables were to have a pound of fresh meat and half a pint of spirits. An advertisement follows about the sale of some tobacco at 7s. per lb. At the sitting of the Magistrates, a ticket-of-leave man lost his indulgence and liberty for receiving stolen goods. Half the Paper is taken up with an anecdote concerning Frederick of Prussia. The ship news notes the presence of four vessels in Port. Finally we have, "Hobart Town; Printed by Andrew Bent."

Number 2, June 8th, narrates the circumstances attending the Birthday festivities, when "a sumptuous and splendid Dinner was given at Government House" to the officers and gentlemen of the colony, and when "hilarity and loyalty pervaded every breast, and the hours passed with the utmost conviviality." A foot race took place between twelve gentlemen that day, from Battery Point to New Town. The first six at the goal were to be treated with a dinner by the slower half dozen.

Captain Nairn had erected a wharf on Hunter's Island, though a causeway was wanted thence to the Hobart main. As the females had some objection to the sight of swinging bodies by the wharf, the gibbets were removed to another spot. Colonel Geil's loss of his four boys, going home to England, is given from the father's letter. The brig *Sophia*, from Gordon's River, with pine, brought news of a coal mine. A reward was offered for a missing horse. Persons were warned not to harbour certain runaway convicts.

Number 3 has the Order appointing a Coroner (Mr. Thomas Archer), and another Order requiring payment for cattle lent by Government. A letter to the Printer gives an extract from a work upon Mountain Scenery. A long account is given of the country about Macquarie Harbour and Port Davey, explored by "the bold and enterprising perseverance of an individual in a whale-boat," Mr. B. McLarty, though the Davys were first entered by Captain Kelly, of the *Sophia*. Reference is made to the discovery there of an inexhaustible mine of coal, and of limestone. Orierton Park was to be the scene of Baces. At the end of that number it is observed: "The arrival of a new font of Type being expected shortly, when the columns of this Paper will be enlarged."

So, on June 22, 1816, the *Gazette* appeared in the new type, on two pages of poor foolscap. Governor Davey, through the Commissary's Office, notifies the tenders of fresh meat for the Stores, and repeats the warning about harbouring runaways. A letter to the Printer directs colonial attention to the growth of hops, with a description of the mode of culture in Kent. A wedding is chronicled, as also a fall of snow on Table Mountain, now known as Mount Wellington. On the capture of General Clout we have some verses about Marshal Ney:

"No wonder that Moskwa was put to the rout,  
For first he got *clouded*, and next lost his Clout."

The Paper of June 29th, has more about hops, and much glorification upon the despatch of 25,000 bushels of Tasmanian wheat to Port Jackson. Whales were coming up the Bay, to the comfort of the whalers. A publican led the widow hostess of another hotel to the altar, "after a tedious courtship of two years." No less than six advertisements occur, besides a Government Notice.

An Order affecting bakers took up more than three-fourths of another two-paged Paper. Some one advertised for a *lost book*, with the heading "Misaid." Two hundred lashes were to be given for an intruder into another man's house at night. One Bridget, for theft, had to "wear the iron collar for 28 days," and a drunken drummer paid 5s. fine to the King. Meat was sold then at ninepence. Number 7 was content with only three columns of print, which limited supply was continued for some months after.

On August 3rd were eleven advertisements. On the brickwork of the new goal being finished, the Governor, who had a sailor's love of grog, gave half a pint of rum to each mechanic and labourer on the building. Mike Howe and twelve other Bushrangers occupy one-third of the Paper. After eight lines of queer rhyme, we read—"The Printer thanks the Gentleman who was kind enough to forward the above, and hopes for his future favors."

An American extract on Bees takes up three-fourths of one Paper, but leaves room for this Notice: "The Printer begs leave to remind the subscribers to this Paper, that a quarter's payment becomes due on Saturday next, the 31st instant. It is almost unnecessary for him to mention that, as this Publication is only in its infancy, he has no doubts of punctual payments; at the same time he is very grateful for the encouragement his exertions have already met with."

Numbers 16, 22, 25, 26, 27, 42, 43, 44, 45 were compelled, by Printers' necessities, to appear in the primitive *manuscript* form. From the Record Office copy a photograph was taken, and is here reproduced.

Gas, to most readers never before heard of, was used on the Lord Mayor's Day 1815, when it was said: "It so completely penetrates the whole atmosphere, and at the same time is so genial to the eyesight, that it appears as natural and pure as daylight." A description of Bonaparte's house at St. Helena takes up half the space, December 7th. A gallon of rum reward was offered for a missing tame Kangaroo. Another offered a gallon of rum for news of a missing boat.

Number 39, February 22, 1817, records the consecration of a piece of ground, on which St. David's church was to be erected. After the performance by the chaplain, the Rev. Robert Knopwood, "a neat and appropriate Masonic oration was delivered by a member of the Society;" after which, "they partook of a very handsome cold collation, all anticipating the increasing prosperity and happiness of Van Diemen's Land."

Upon the foundation stone of the church was inscribed: "To perpetuate the Memory of His Honor the late David Collins, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, and Colonel in the Royal Marine Forces, Departed this life the 24th of March, A.D. 1810." The *Saint*, therefore, after whom the church was called, was not the Patron of Wales.

A March number has this story of a Hobart Wife Auction: "A Hibernian, whose finances were rather low, brought his wife to the hammer this morning, and although no way prepossessing in appearance, to the amazement of all present, she was sold and delivered to a settler for one gallon of rum and 20 ewes. From the variety of bidders, had there been any more in the market, the sale would have been very brisk."

In the above extract, the Printer, being short of the proper letter, had to employ capital A in the middle of several words. In an urgent appeal to subscribers, he tells them that "payments will prove very acceptable."

Though the *Gazette* continued through 1817 to have but two pages, an occasional page was thrown in as a Supplement. The issue was most generally of two columns on the first page, and one column on the second. Governor Sorell and his wife, going overland in June to Port Dalrymple, were escorted by a party of soldiers. There was more fear from Bushrangers than from the wild Natives. The Chaplain was then charged with holding communication with Bushrangers.

As the Paper had to undergo revision at the Colonial Secretary's Office before publication, one can appreciate the statement, in writing, at the end of the second page, September 6th, 1817: "The District General Muster occasioned the absence of all from the Secretary's Office before this page was set; hence the horrid stuff to be found in it." Thus we read, referring to a lady's death, in Macquarie Street: "May her lamentable sufferings give the females of this colony an obliterated lesson of the strictest precaution!"

Number 74 has no local news, and but four advertisements. One of the latter was a warning not to trust a woman from whom the protector had separated. In October, 1817, we learn the death of a woman who was the first female married in Australia—i.e., under a marquee, on March 23rd, 1788. In the first issue of 1818, the Printer threatened his defaulters with legal proceedings. Advertisements, mostly official, filled three of the four pages. Number 92 was wholly filled with advertisements; but a Supplement supplied a little space for news. A Supplement, and an Additional Supplement, were taken up with details of the death of the Princess Charlotte, the Paper being in deep mourning bands. The size of the foolscap paper varied repeatedly in width and length, while fluctuating frequently in thickness. The division of the page into three narrow columns, instead of two broad ones, came in May of 1818, in which year the issue was still of two pages foolscap. Over five of the six columns of January 2, 1819 were of advertisements. The next paper was full of Government Notices and Orders.







Sydney news came very irregularly to Hobart; if coming to Dalrymple, Launceston, it took a long time before it reached Hobart through the bush. English news was given when advertisements were few. The *Hobart Town Gazette Extraordinary*, September 13, 1820, records the death of George III., upon a page of very coarse paper, the width of foolscap, but two inches longer. The coronation of George IV. nearly filled the two pages of a Supplement, November 18th, 1820.

The increase of size took place on January 6th, 1821, being 14 inches by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  two pages, with six columns. The advertisements occupied three columns and a half, and British news a column. Supplements were few and far between. Errors were duly noted; as, "For 263 lbs. of tobacco and 78 lbs. of sugar, read 20 lbs. of tobacco and 263 lbs. of sugar."

On April 7th, 1821, the Publisher of the *Gazette* asked for subscribers to the monthly *Australian Magazine*, to appear in 8vo., May list, the advertisement of which was nearly a column and a half. Then was the notice of the first hive of bees by a Liverpool vessel; adding, "The bee has not before been imported into Van Diemen's Land."

The Printer announced in April, 1821, an extension of his business; thus, "A. Bent begs leave to state that he has commenced COPPER-PLATE PRINTING, which he trusts will be executed in such a Manner as to give general satisfaction; and begs also to inform those gentlemen who are disposed to issue Promissory Notes, &c., that any motto or other matters they may wish to have endorsed thereon, so as to render doubly the Hazard of Counterfeit, will be accomplished in LETTER PRESS, free of any extra charge."

A Supplement, in blue paper, is seen for August 25th, 1821, followed by one on thin post, and a third on long, narrow paper. The *Gazette* informed readers that the hull of a cedar Phœnician vessel had been discovered near Cape Town. The Colonial Chaplain had arranged in 1822 to have services at four places, though not all on the same Sunday. The Rev. N. Turner was advertised in June 1822, to preach in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Argyle Street, Rev. William Horton being the resident minister. Mr. Benjamin Nokes then advertised his Sunday School for children of all denominations. On July 27th, 1823, is the story of an attempt at the murder of Mr. B. Howe, the first Australian Printer: "At an abrupt corner of the street the villain turned, and rushing upon Mr. Howe, plunged a bayonet into his breast, and disappeared. Mr. Howe reached a friend's house, exhausted, and weltering in his blood; and surgical aid being immediately called in, a ragged wound in the breast was discovered, which narrowly escaped the lungs."

The *Gazette* of January, 1823, was enlarged to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , of four columns a page, but still only two pages. The conductor remarked: "We this day commence the eighth volume of the *Hobart Town Gazette*, increasing it in size somewhat beyond that of last year. We regret that we are unable, from the non-arrival of our type from England, to enter upon the year with a Paper of four pages; but as our printing material will, we are assured, arrive here shortly, we feel happy in the prospect of being speedily enabled to publish nearly one half more matter, than we have hitherto had it in our power to give."

A column and a half of the eight columns could be devoted to news. Names of the advertising shopkeepers were subsequently to be recognised among colonial bankers, merchants, squatters, legislators, &c. of the Wesleyan chapel, then erecting in Melville Street, it was advertised: "Bricks, lime, timber, nails, window glass, cartage, bricklayers', carpenters' and stone masons' labour will be thankfully received, as well as cash."

Advertisements for the Saturday Paper were required to be sent in and paid for on Wednesdays. As, in 1823, the Post Office undertook to send newspapers to eight country stations, to the care of the District Constables, it was duly reported: "Gentlemen, settlers and others, desirous of taking in this *Gazette*, can now receive it at a regular and fixed time every week, at almost any part of the Island, by sending their names to the Printer."

Being in the Dark Ages, before the light of responsible government, and the advent of Colonial Public Debts, the autocratic rulers of the Island, careful guardians of the Public Purse, managed to begin the financial year, March 31, 1822, with a balance in hand of £5,042, though the year's income, from duties, &c., was but little more; as, with that balance, the revenue was £10,738. Surely the printer ought then to get in his accounts.

The chaplain, Mr. Knopwood, retired on a pension, after twenty years' service, and was succeeded by the Rev. William Bedford. Subscriptions from 10s. to £5 5s. were announced towards building the Scots' church, besides a large amount for a Minister's stipend. Again had the Printer something to say, May 3, 1823: "By the *Thalia*, a new Patent Printing Press has been imported to Van Diemen's Land, for the use of the *Hobart Town Gazette*; but our long expected New Types, which were to have been sent out by this vessel also, we are sorry to say, have not arrived; though we have confidence that the want in our typographical department of that most essential article, Type, will be actually and (we may add) completely supplied ere the close of the present year."

A great improvement in the Paper of July 5th was thus accounted for: "We have at length the satisfaction of informing our readers that we have received by the 'Berwick' from England an entire new font of type, from the letter foundry of Messrs. Caslon and Livermore, of London, and that this week's *Gazette* is, for the first time, composed with it. The chief advantages arising from its adoption, will be found by our Readers, in the power it affords us of publishing, at least, one-third more matter, than we have hitherto been enabled to give on the same proportion of paper. Having now the means to enlarge our Paper, we feel happy in stating, that the *Hobart Town Gazette* will make its appearance, at the commencement of the new year, with four pages of the present size, printed on superior English paper."

In September it was stated that "a new Almanack, calculated for the meridian of this island, under the sanction of Government will, it is expected, make its appearance in Van Diemen's Land next year."

At last the four pages came forth with No. 400, January 2, 1824; leading the Editor to remark: "Our *Gazette* has found its way into many parts of the world, and we have seen extracts from it in Journals from East to West. We feel a pleasure in having it in our power now to state that, our enlarged Paper will henceforth enable us to give publicity to all communications which may appear useful or interesting to our readers." The Paper had certainly some good English information in its columns, and nearly eighty advertisements.

The *Tasmanian* was advertised January 7th, 1825, to appear as a new weekly in Launceston, the 12th inst. With the beginning of 1825, the *Gazette* was enlarged again by an inch in length of page, and nearly as much in breadth. In his self congratulation, the Printer recalls the past history of his little Paper, saying: "Few except ourselves can comprehend even a tithe of the difficulties which ten-years ago we had to grapple with; our type was so limited that we could not compose, at once,

more than is contained in *one* of our present-sized columns! There was no printing ink in the colony, but what we were necessitated to manufacture in the best possible manner for ourselves, and common Chinese paper, no more than half the size of foolscap, and which two sheets were consequently obliged to be pasted together for each *Gazette*, cost *two guineas sterling per ream!*"

Notwithstanding the increased size, the Paper's price was lowered 12s. per annum, with a reduction on long advertisements of a penny a line. But, said the worthy Printer, "owing to the very great expense by which the publication of this *Gazette* is now attended, and as the mode of giving credit for the Paper is accompanied by losses continually increasing, he will in future be obliged to look to all persons whatever (including, of course, those who even now take the *Gazette*) for a quarter's payment in advance."

The Publisher regretted being "compelled to withdraw the *Gazette* from all his country subscribers who are, and have been, long in arrears, unless they oblige him with an immediate settlement, and the written undertaking of some responsible person in Hobart Town to pay his demands in future *when due*."

At a public dinner, in honour of Governor Sorell, April 7, 1825, the toast of "The Liberty of the Press" was greeted with long, loud, and reiterated plaudits. Mr. Gregson, J.P., declared that, in "a well directed Press, the Public, even in the worst of times, will find their safeguard from oppression." A correspondent, *Colonist*, began a series of letters to Governor Arthur, in the *Gazette*, April 1825, characterised by great force and candour. One letter took up three columns small type, cleverly and boldly criticising public affairs. But for such letters, Bent, the printer, would have escaped imprisonment and fines.

In notices to correspondents we learn that "Miranda's poetry is too good for vulgar eyes to gaze on." Upon a report that Dr. Ross, with the aid of Government, was about to start a Paper, Mr. Bent had no objection to supply him or others "on very liberal terms, a sufficiency of new type, with one of our best and largest presses." A "Launcestonian" wrote in May that Mr. Ross offered "£300 sterling per annum to Mr. Howe, with half the profits of his Paper, if he would remove it from Launceston to Hobart Town, to be printed as a Government Paper alone."

A Press Trial took place, August 1st, 1825, before a military jury, that cast the poor Printer. The particulars are thus referred to afterwards: "On Monday last, Mr. Bent, the Proprietor, Printer, and Publisher of this journal, was again found guilty upon another *Ex Officio* Information, for a series of libels. The information consisted of eleven counts; seven of which, being defective from clerical errors, were abandoned by the Attorney-General, and Mr. Bent was, of course, acquitted thereon. But the remaining four still comprehended all the articles set forth in the information, except one, the letter of 'A Colonist,' in reply, &c." The same Paper reported the trial of Mr. Baines, of the *Leeds Mercury*, for libel in 1824.

A sort of apology came January 7th, 1826, saying: "We had hoped that the arrival of new materials would have enabled us to commence the year by paying our respects unrestrained to our subscribers and friends." The Paper was certainly inferior in general *get-up* to what it had been before competition appeared. There were, however, forty-nine advertisements, of which fourteen were Government ones.

Mr. Bent brought out in 1818 the earliest Tasmanian work. In the Preface we read: "As it forms the first pamphlet from a very confined Press, the Editor claims for it the indulgent consideration of his readers." It was entitled "Michael Howe, the last and worst of the Bushrangers of Van Diemen's Land."

#### "THE TASMANIAN."

The *Sydney Gazette*, of November 18th, 1824, announced that the son of Mr. Howe, the Sydney printer, would start, at Port Dalrymple (Launceston), in the following January, the *Tasmanian Gazette and Launceston Advertiser*.

The Editor, in the first number, January 5th, 1825, declared that "the supporters of the *Tasmanian* may feel assured that, as the Settlement of Port Dalrymple rises into notice, so shall the columns of this humble journal increase in estimation." But, in May, the Sydney Paper remarked: "It is thought that it will be necessary for the *Tasmanian* to suspend operations for some months at least."

When removed to Hobart Town, the first copy was issued on Saturday, March 3rd, 1827. It was about 18 inches long, with four pages of three broad columns each. Both paper and type were inferior, and the letter was very small. It was, as on the northern side, printed and published by George Terry Howe, son of the founder of the *Sydney Gazette*. The first issue had thirty-four advertisements. The parental pressman observed: "The printing materials, till returns come from Europe, will be scanty, and the columns of the little journal will only assume a humble appearance."

The Editor complained of the people not aiding those of Sydney in struggling for freedom. "What a contemplation will it be," said he, "if in August next, when the new arrangement in these colonies becomes the subject of consideration in the British Parliament, that Tasmania silently consented to remain in her present state." Subsequent numbers referred to the noble public meeting for the demand of Trial by Jury and a Legislative Assembly. Very long letters in very small type brought forward social and political questions. The day of publication became Thursday, and then Friday on November 16th.

On May 10th a drunkard is thus described: "A poor old woman was placed in the stocks for six hours, with only a log of rough wood to sit upon." A week after it is said: "We regret that the columns of the Government *Gazette* should be again disgraced by the introduction of personal invective and abuse." The death of the widow of Governor Davey was recorded in May as taking place in Hobart Town.

May 24th brought news of the Press Act in Sydney, saying: "Before such extraordinary provisions are adopted in a young and rising colony, which are calculated so materially to check its growth, it would, in our opinion, have been but prudent to have shown that the extraordinary powers, already possessed of prosecution by an Attorney-General and a military jury, were insufficient for the safety or security of the State. Can any one instance be adduced of a State prosecution for libel and an acquittal?" "We lament over the demise of the Liberty of the Press. The want of it will make Australia mourn."

It was admitted that "the articles inserted in the *Australian* and the *Monitor* have usually gone far, very far, beyond the bounds of fair discussion;" and their want of respect for the person of the Governor was deplored.

The robbery of the Hobart Treasury Chest of £1,300 was the chief event in the month of June.

A change in the conduct of the Paper was declared August 30th: "John Campbell Macdougall most respectfully begs to acquaint his friends and the Public that he has purchased the *Tasmanian* Press and printing materials from Mr. G. T. Howe. In looking round, and perceiving the *Hobart Town Gazette* on one hand, a Government organ; and, on the other, the *Colonial Times*, an opposition newspaper, we will endeavour to walk on steadily in a middle course, divested of all party motives."

January 4th, 1828, opened with a full-sized demy, in four pages of four columns, having thirty-seven advertisements. Bearing in mind the motto of the Paper—"In necessary things, Unity; in non-essentials, Liberty; in all things, Charity"—the conductor declared himself "averse to the unceasingly, week after week, coming forward with complaint upon complaint, placing in the most prominent point of view everything which could by possibility be construed into subject of reprehension, or turning and twisting into party views and party prejudices." He laments "the punishment of the Stamp Act, which fell equally on friend and foe, and which could not but be particularly severely felt at the commencement of our own undertaking."

The *Tasmanian*, mainly because it refused to believe the colonial rulers worse than ordinary men, and incapable of either thinking or acting for the welfare of the people, was ever the subject of derision and violent attack from the *Colonial Times*.

*Murray's Austral-Asiatic Review* had been advertised in the Paper of January to appear in February; but the issue of January 16th, 1829, appeared as the *Tasmanian and Austral-Asiatic Review*, with this notification: "By the change of the appellation and in the imprimatur of this journal, our Readers will perceive that the expectation we held out to them in our last has been realised. There are now three weekly newspapers in this little island, and we believe a fourth is about to come into existence at Launceston. This journal will be conducted in the manner which those connected with it may consider, to the best of their humble judgments, to be the best calculated to advance the prosperity of the land we live in."

One shilling in price, it was about 15 inches in size, with eight pages of three columns, and under the care of R. L. Murray and J. C. Macdougall. Under that combination of appellations, the Paper continued till January 7th, 1831. Then, as edited and published by Robert L. Murray, but printed by Henry Melville, it appeared each Saturday evening as the *Tasmanian and Southern Literary and Political Journal*. There was some enlargement of size. Though its first number had seventy-eight advertisements, a fourth were copied from the *Government Gazette*.

At the end of 1831, the Editor felt himself obliged from ill-health to resign, though intending to re-establish his *Austral-Asiatic Review*, "combining the advantages of a newspaper with the more detailed discussion of a magazine." As the *Review*, it long flourished as a Paper of excellent position, though regarded with no friendly feeling by those who came under its severe criticism. It was very severe upon the Governor and Lady Franklin in 1843. It had previously been on Colonel Arthur's side.

Mr. John Fawkner's *Launceston Advertiser* was a friend to the *Hobart Tasmanian*. In November, 1829, the conductor of the former declared this of the latter: "It is the leading journal of Van Diemen's Land. The proprietors have announced that it will be published twice a week; we are glad of this, we shall be proud to see it published seven times a week." Its motto was, "Open to all parties—influenced by none." In 1838 the *Tasmanian* had eight small pages.

#### "LAUNCESTON ADVERTISER."

This was the first enduring Newspaper of Launceston, the northern capital of the Island. It was established by John Fawkner, afterwards known as John Pascoe Fawkner, who erected the first business place on the banks of the Yarra Yarra. Hotel Keeper in Tasmania and Port Phillip, entirely self-taught, endowed with singular force of character, though with a feeble and diminutive frame, he ultimately became a Senator of Melbourne. His impulsive energy, and Bedouin-like combativeness, were as conspicuous in his Paper of 1829, as they were thirty years after, in the Victorian Parliament. His younger days, passed under the most unfavourable circumstances, were followed by those of usefulness and honor. His love of books was shown in his early tavern-lending library, and in the magnificent private collection of literature he formed in his advanced years.

The first volume of his Paper, now seen at the British Museum, was formerly owned by the primitive printer, A. Bent, whose name is written on its first page. The first number, appearing on February 9th, 1829,—was about an inch larger than an ordinary sheet of foolscap. It was thus presented.—"Tasmania: Printed and Published by the Proprietor, John Fawkner, Junr., Launceston, Van Diemen's Land."

Its first column was headed by an advertisement of "Fawkner's Hotel, Cameron Street." He therein named his Circulating Library, which was stated to contain six works by Opie, five by Mrs. Radcliffe, two by Lady Morgan, one by Smollet, Hutchinson's Memoirs, Peregrine Pickle, Attic Fragments, &c. Each of the four pages had three columns. The paper was bad in colour, and the type was old; but the issue bore a tidy appearance. The introduction, conveying the proprietor's ideas, not altogether his language, was as follows:—"Labouring under numerous disadvantages, we feel exceeding diffidence in introducing to the public this (our first) number of the *Launceston Advertiser*; but, when we consider that time alone can surmount the difficulties which invariably attend a new undertaking, and that these difficulties will be allowed for, and considered by a generous public, we confess we feel our confidence encouraged. The primary object that we have in view is, to disseminate interesting intelligence, commercial information, pleasing instruction and profitable recreation. Harmony is the motto of the *Launceston Advertiser*, whose pages shall never be prostituted to scurrility, calumny, sycophancy, or disaffection; nor shall they be made the vehicle of slander, malice, and party feeling. For we conceive it the imperative duty of a public journalist, rather to promote good-will and fellowship, than to fan the flame of animosity, by suffering personal attacks of the malevolent to invade these columns, which ought to be dedicated alone to subjects harmless, useful and interesting to the community. But let us not be understood, by these our remarks, to exclude from our pages fair and temperate discussion upon events, and measures of public importance. British and Foreign news will occupy a considerable portion of our paper, when it does not interfere with the insertion of local intelligence; in which case, such extracts only will be given, as tend directly to the interest or welfare of Tasmania."

There was a start with twenty-four advertisements. These were paid for at the rate of 3s. 6d. to subscribers, or 6s. to outsiders, for eight lines, with 3d. a line over that amount. Subscription was fixed at two guineas a year. It was said to be "Printed by J. Fawkner, Junr.;" as his father was still living in Hobart. Bread was then 16d. per quartern,—"left to the discretion of a mercenary

justo of these despotic lords of the oven." Thanks to the Paper's criticism, the staff of life was lowered directly after to 12d. We are told that a woman was whipped at the cart tail through Launceston Streets; that "the savages in the district are particularly annoying;" that sentence of death was just pronounced upon twenty-two criminals. The next number took up the baker's question again, saying—

"Then cease to urge your knavish plea,  
Lest you perchance be shoven,  
Where every baker rogue will be,—  
Well baked in Satan's oven."

Mr. Fawcner took the government side in his Paper against the reformers, and supported proposals for taxation on spirits; adding: "We beg to ask our readers, whether the merchant, the publican, or the frequenters of the tavern and ale house, are the real payers of the tax."

A correspondent gave a letter of advice to members of the press; observing,—“Never quote a journal, except you find articles in it which you can cut well to pieces. When you are short of news, let imagination supply their place. Furnish yourself with the key of the thought chest of the Legislative Council. Accustom yourself to find fault with all the measures of the present administration. According to circumstances, change your style, and, more particularly, your lodgings.”

The liberty of the Press comes before us thus on March 2nd:—"The proprietor of this Paper was compelled to appear before His Honor the Chief Justice, a few days aback, in order to enter into sureties, to the amount of £800 by himself and two bondsmen; himself, in £400, and his sureties in £200 each, in case he should be convicted of any seditious or blasphemous libel, that himself, or them, should pay to that amount, if cast. His Honor received them politely, as, also, some other printers and their sureties. When the following form of oath was tendered to all the sureties, severally; the questions only of which we shall state, as the answers might trespass on feelings already sufficiently wounded:—

"You shall truly answer all such questions as I may put to you. Who are you? Are you a householder? What else do you possess? What are you worth altogether? How much do you owe? Did you ever take the benefit of the Insolvent Act? Did you not once apply to me for relief, unable to pay your debts, or support yourself? Hem! To another surety. How much are you worth? What does it consist of? You must not rate your property (landed property in Hobart Town) at what you gave for it, it might not sell for half that sum. If this is all your property, how do you live? How do you derive any income? How many cattle have you? How many sheep? How much land? Have you any other property? We think the only question ought to have been—Can you pay the Bond when all just claims upon you are settled? We make no comments upon this, further than to show to our readers, that we were compelled to traverse the Island at an expense of £20, besides the loss of time, and unpleasantness attendant upon favours of this kind granted to us by the friends who have respectively become our sureties; few of whom would have the courage to encounter a second such ordeal."

The Paper tells a story of a naval man seeking a duel with an Editor in the colony. There was a toss up for a large horse pistol, and the man of the pen won. He of the sword, finding only a small pistol remaining, began to consider; finally, he went up smiling, held out his hand, and declared his conviction that the newspaper writer meant no harm.

The rivalry between the two Launceston Papers called forth this choice language of the *Advertiser*:—"To the Old Woman who writes for the *Cornwall Press*. We are accused by you, "Old Woman," with disseminating falsehoods, vituperation, slander and absurdity, and you take upon your poor old shoulders a weight which you are unable to bear. You silly 'Old Woman,' you, why talk about the place being unable to support two newspapers?" Again, March 30th—"We blush for you, for we find that you cannot or will not blush for yourselves. O, indeed! we are not *manly* to wage war with an old woman, who has lost all but her nose. If we continue to go on as we have begun, poor Launceston will soon be left without a single Editor except ourselves."

Printers were sought:—"Wanted a compositor to work on the *Launceston Advertiser*, who will be paid according to the following scale: For each column of double-leaded matter, and each one of pica, or English letter, if the same length as the columns of the *Cornwall Press*; for the first named, 1s.; for Pica or English, 9d."

In April 20th we read: "At the very outset of our humble career, we had the misfortune to give offence to a few—visited by something like persecution, and this, too, when their object, if they really had any, must have been to stifle the voice of free discussion, the putting down the freedom and independence of a public journal, the stifling the voice of the Free Press, that greatest of all benefits, which as freemen we enjoy, even with all its errors."

In May, the Editor asks: "Is it true that the Editor of the *Cornwall Press* borrows his wit? But is it true that he ever has, or ever can, return the article lent?" One article "must have been written in some tap room." This *Advertiser* then quotes some choice remarks applied to its proprietor:—"Addlepat, upstart—garrulous maligner—superannuated zany—bubble-like authorial pretensions. He has thrown the awl of his fair one's Cicisbeo on the Printer's devil—the spume of an imposter, like the frothings of a table beer cask, may make a show, but betokens a . . . as weak and as insipid as the beverage alluded to (Did the writer learn this simile when serving as a pot boy?)—five feet two and a quarter, &c."

In reply to the abuse, among other remarks, we meet with this:—"By-the-bye, the five feet two and a quarter man says, he would thank you to call and pay the wine bill you run up some three months ago."

The *Advertiser* took a personal interest in some fresh State interference with the "Trade," observing that the Act "might very well have been spared to a body of men labouring under so many disadvantages as they already do. The late Council did little else but restrain the liberty of the Press, and shackle the publicans and merchants who deal in spirits."

The report of July 6th, was:—"The 19th number of the *Cornwall Press* was published on Friday last; it has ceased to exist." From its ashes sprang the *Cornwall Chronicle*.

August 17th presented this: "We are at length blest, supremely blest, by the appointment of a Legislative Council; this is the millstone which is daily and hourly interrupting and retarding the wholesome and rapid growth of this Island. To the greater part of this misnamed Legislative Council, we and the public at large have great and almost insuperable objections."

The Sydney Press Martyrs were thus referred to, August 24th:—"We are informed—that the

Editors of the two Independent Journals, the *Australian* and the *Monitor*, appear tolerably comfortable in durance vile. They have a room each in the Execution Yard, at the back of the gaol, their rooms are comfortably furnished, and they are allowed to enjoy every personal comfort, at their own expense, their friends have free access to them from the hours of eight in the morning until nine in the evening. The publications still continue to be carried on with as much regularity as formerly, and with increased success."

In September and October, Mr. John Batman, afterwards the founder of Port Phillip, is spoken of as the leader of a party for the capture of Tasmanian Blacks.

A promise was made that the Paper of the new year would have at least six extra columns. Mr. Fawcner and the Launceston Magistrate, Mr. Gordon, did not agree. In the last issue of 1829, we read of "the proprietor of the *Launceston Advertiser* having been compelled to remove from the Cornwall Hotel, through the influence of Messrs. Gordon & Co." Mr. Fawcner subsequently sold the Paper to Mr. Dowling, who conducted the *Advertiser* in a manner to gain general approval, and upon the lines of social and moral progress.

#### "THE CORNWALL CHRONICLE."

The first number of this Launceston weekly Newspaper was published on Saturday, February 14th, 1835, by William Mann as proprietor. It was of four pages, five columns each, 21 inches long by 13½ broad. The subscription was 13s. per quarter, 10s. if paid in advance. Advertisements paid 3s. 6d. for twelve lines. Its motto was, "Honesty of purpose, and the good of our adopted country." There were 57 advertisements, besides those copied from the *Government Gazette*.

It pitted itself against the *Launceston Advertiser*. The Editor learned "that the conductor of the *Advertiser* is becoming rather more modest in his pretensions, having discovered that contempt for religion, self adulation, and all-engrossing selfishness, are attributes by no means calculated to enhance the merits of any writer in the estimation of thinking people."

The *Chronicle* opposed the *Tasmanian*. The latter had spoken of convicts as slaves, and demanded a colony without them. The *Chronicle* replied: "The attempts to found colonies unaccompanied by convict labour have totally failed as yet, and the unhopd-for prosperity both New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land at this day enjoy, is mainly attributable to their being penal settlements."

Penalties inflicted upon Hobart Newspaper proprietors called forth this remark from the *Chronicle* of March 28th: "The recent judgments given against the conductor of a portion of the Colonial Press may, perhaps, operate on some weak minds as a terror. It ought not—because he who, regardless of truth, publishes statements which cannot be supported, to the injury of any man, must be supposed to be actuated by feelings of private malice, and thereby employs the Press to his own disgrace. If punishment awaits him, the public is benefited, and not injured."

When the imprint changed on April 18th to "Edited by William Lushington Goodwin, Printed and Published by William Mann," the same advocacy of transportation was continued, as being as beneficial to the prisoner as to the colony. An enlargement to the extent of an inch and a half in width took place November 7th, when six columns took the place of five, although it was stated: "Until the arrival of new material from England (which we may shortly expect) we must continue to labour under our present disadvantages."

The issue, in indistinct, and often very small type, needed new material. The 75 advertisements were poorly printed. William Lushington Goodwin was named both printer and proprietor. A step down to five columns occurred January 16th, 1836, and lasted till November 18th, 1837, when the six were restored, and with better type. A sheet, 22 inches by 17, enabled Mr. Goodwin to come out with seven columns to the page on August 4th, 1838, when he addressed himself to "The Friends of the Independent Press," saying: "Eager to afford, to the utmost of my ability, an acknowledgment to my friends who so generously stepped forward to assist in defraying my expenses, occasioned by my recent struggles with a pampered minion of the hateful Patronage Monster, protected as he was by the powerful shield of the Government, I feel that I could not perform the pleasing duty in a better manner, than expending the money subscribed for me, in enlarging the *Cornwall Chronicle*, thereby increasing the means of general information, and enabling me to render increased service to the friends of the Independent Press, and to Freedom."

It was in May, 1838, that the *Chronicle* wrote: "There are in the Australian Colonies twenty-three Newspapers, four of which are published three times a week, three twice a week, and seventeen once a week. Estimating the average circulation of each Paper to be 500—the influence of the Press will be readily admitted."

#### "THE LAUNCESTON EXAMINER."

Though this belonged not to the period of Early Press Struggles, it deserves a passing notice, not less for the admirable way in which it has been managed for nearly half a century, than for the worthy part it played in the cause of true freedom, in its consistent advocacy of religious equality in the eyes of the Law, and its vigorous support of the Anti-Transportation League of old. It presented a striking contrast to the *Launceston Advertiser* of 1829.

The *Launceston Examiner—Commercial and Agricultural Advertiser* made its bow to the public on Saturday evening, March 12th, 1842. It was printed and published for the Proprietor, James Aikenhead, one of the most honoured members of the Colonial Press. There were eight pages of four columns each. It was of an odd shape, 17 inches by 10½. In the first copy it is said: "The Proprietor will shortly receive a full-sized press, when the form of the *Examiner* will be assimilated to the generality of colonial Papers, and published twice a week." The form continued the same to the end of 1843, but a Wednesday evening Paper appeared, in the *Bi-Weekly*, October 12th, 1842. The first number came out in quite a superior style as to its printing order. There was plenty of news, English and Australian.

The Address of the Editor affords us the following extracts: "A strong and general impression exists that the multifarious interests, increased population, and advancing interests of this town and neighbourhood, demand the establishment of an additional Newspaper. [After praise of a worthy Press it continues.] A Newspaper may be a curse. It may disturb and disfigure the operations of that mighty agency to which it belongs, and tarnish the triumphs of the Press. A false delicacy that dare not disturb the quiet of speculators or impostors, or shrinks from correcting the errors of well-meaning but blundering functionaries, may secure a journalist from opposition, but he must speedily drivel into contempt, and drop into oblivion. Private character may be safely left to the censorship of public opinion; the Press is degraded when it pursues the

objects of petty revenge and personal spleen. There are limits to interference with public men; their fireside is sacred, and even their official character demands a generous representation. In this colony the Press is the shield of the people—their only shield. Despite of prayers and protests, measures are triumphantly borne through the Council to the throne, which a popular Assembly would strangle in a moment. Defects are charged upon the Colonial Press; we partly admit them; but who would not leave those aberrations to the correcting influence of public opinion and advancing intelligence, rather than restrict a privilege which is the last stronghold of liberty? The time cannot be remote when the era of irresponsible rule will terminate in the Colonies of Great Britain. The grand truths are widening their dominion on the minds of men, which will ultimately effect more in the cause of justice, religion and commerce than ten thousand exclusive laws—that every man has a full right to do, and to enjoy, all that does not invade the equal right of his neighbours, and that an Executive Government should rarely be seen, but in the administration of justice, and the protection of the people.”

Such eloquent expression of elevating sentiments could hardly have proceeded from the pen of any other man than the talented Congregational Minister of Launceston, the Rev. John West, afterwards the esteemed Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Launceston literature furnished the following choice specimens of colonial culture, in the columns of the *Cornwall Chronicle*, November, 1839:—“We learn that another newspaper is about being started in Launceston—another pounds, shillings and pence SHEET, under the patronage, and behind the curtain assistance of the proprietor of a defunct humbug print. We wish the operatives success, and trust that they may not have to seek payment for their services in the Court of Requests. The character of the Colonial Press must indeed be low, when it becomes the property of a petty green-grocer, dealer in marine stores, and shop chandler, and the parties engaged in it are reduced so low as to take in payment for their services, sugar mixed with 50 per cent. of sand, tea adulterated with the leaves of the damson tree, tobacco saturated with—dye, and the balance in penny tracts, charged twopence.”

THE CORNWALL PRESS—established by an Irish Wesleyan colonist, Mr. G. Dowsett, in April, 1830—only reached its twentieth weekly number. It was bitter in its attack on Mr. Fawcner, of the *Launceston Advertiser*, employing such choice expressions as “annihilate the blowfly—five feet two inches and a quarter, poor fellow—as a moral pestilence must be checked.” &c. Under the head “Launceston Advertiser” the reader will learn that the little proprietor of that Paper was more than a match for the *Cornwall Press*.

THE HOBART TOWN COURIER was established in 1827 by the favourite of officials, Dr. Ross, and conducted by him till his death, at the age of fifty-five, in August, 1838. The *Tasmanian*, of September, that year, had this description of the editor:—“He had a strong aversion to the science of political economy; he was sceptical in regard to its principles; and his position as the Editor of an official organ (*Government Gazette*) cramped what energies might have been native to him, and materially lessened his usefulness. Dr. Ross was a native of Aberdeen, at the university of which town he received a classical education, the fruits of which were richly shown in the columns of his journal so many years conducted by him.”

In Number 545, vol. x., February 3rd, 1837, Mr. Gore Elliston’s name is given as publisher and proprietor. The *Courier* had then four pages, six columns each. In April, 1838, it was enlarged to seven columns a page, though receding again to six. Vol. xxi, February 5th, 1848, still under Mr. Elliston, had a page of 22½-inches by 16. The Paper ran short half an inch from October 4th, 1848, to July 4th, 1849. It changed management in 1836. It was said that Mr. Elliston gave Dr. Ross £12,000 for his Paper.

THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, commencing in June, 1825, was printed by Mr. Howe, but edited by Dr. Ross, of the *Courier*. Mr. Elliston was afterwards the business manager. The *Cornwall Chronicle*, no friend to the *Courier*, said in March, 1839: “We are informed that Mr. Elliston boasts that he receives £5,000 per annum for the Government Printing-job-monopoly. So long as he receives £5,000 a year for performing a contract which any other printer in the colony would do for £500 a year, Mr. Elliston will not care one straw for the colonists.” In 1839, a Government Printer, Mr. Barnard, was obtained, and the *Gazette* was much improved. The *Review* said: “The type is very handsome and uniform; the matter is well arranged; the composition is correctly performed, and the press-work well executed.”

#### “HOBART TOWN ADVERTISER.”

The *Advertiser* arose in Hobart with the motto: “The greatest good of the greatest number.” It migrated from Launceston; or, as Mr. Henry Melville put it, “subsequent events induced its publication in Hobart Town.” It was printed and published at first by Edward Abbott; though, subsequently, by Benjamin O’Neil Wilson and John Hall. The first number, April 5th, 1839, sold for sixpence, and advertisements were charged half-a-crown for ten lines, with twopence for each extra line. There were sixty-four advertisements.

Some extracts from the Editor’s address “To our Readers” will indicate the path intended to be pursued:—“We commence with our loyalty. In this feeling we yield to none, not because we go hoodwinked through the world, believing that ‘whatever is, is right,’ but because we think there is a high-minded female upon the British throne, who, having been educated in liberal principles, is not a likely person ever to forget that she has been created for the people, not the people for her. We shall support the Government so long as, in our opinion, it supports the interests of the people. We shall support the Universal Church. We consider the people to be the source of all legitimate power, but we are not of those who would make all men equal. All we desire is the good will of our contemporaries, a clear stage, and as much favour as we may be considered entitled to,” &c.

The Paper was in favour of the old Assignment System of Convicts, so strongly condemned as slavery by Archbishop Whately and other British philanthropists, who succeeded in supplanting it for the Probation System, so generally condemned by colonists. It was long a bi-weekly, Tuesday and Friday Number 201, of 1842, contained 101 advertisements.

#### “THE COLONIAL TIMES.”

Though certainly one of the most distinguished of the old Tasmanian papers, it has been so much rettered to in the article upon the “Freedom of the Tasmanian Press,” that little of our restricted space can be further devoted to it and its uncompromising editor, Mr. Henry Melville. As “The Hermit,” a caustic writer, made a great impression upon colonial society, the Paper was thus noticed by



the *Launceston Advertiser*, November 23rd, 1829: "It is in this journal (*Colonial Times*) the "Hermit" publishes his pen and ink slaughters, which, for the sake of humanity, we hope to see expunged from its pages. There is a great deal of conceit about the *Colonial Times*, which is unpardonable in any journal."

The *Almanack* for 1826 called the *Colonial Times* "an independent paper printed every Friday in Hobart Town, by Mr. A. Bent, the Proprietor, by whom it was established in 1816, under the title of the *Hobart Town Gazette*." No colonial paper ever carried on so relentless and persistent a course of opposition to government, and few could have exceeded it in forcible English. Its conductors paid the severe penalty of consistency and conviction, losing the greater part of their worldly goods, and enduring the deprivation of their liberty. Yet to it, more than to any other paper, has Australia been indebted for its subsequent emancipation from personal rule.

GRATIS NEWSPAPERS.—Tasmania, at the time of the writer's acquaintance with it in 1841, nearly fifty years ago, boasted of two advertising *Gratis Newspapers*, which were supposed to be left at every house in the town, and so attracted a large number of general advertisements. Complaints were made of this infringement upon the rights of the legitimate press. The proprietor of one *Gratis Paper* had the following insertion, December 27th, 1844, in the *Colonial Times*: "The undersigned considers it a duty to his friends and the public, by whom his *Gratis Publication*, the *Trumpeter*, has been so long and so liberally supported, in expressing his grateful thanks for the obligation he is under to them, to explain the reasons which have induced him, in common with Mr. Elliston, the proprietor of the *Gratis Publication*, the *Omnibus*, to discontinue the *Trumpeter* at the close of the present year. He was invariably of opinion that the legitimate Press alone, the Newspapers, are rightfully entitled to the benefit of advertisements, and that *Gratis sheets* limited to their insertion was an infringement upon the just rights of that press. He knew that in Edinburgh the attempt had been made to establish a *Gratis advertising sheet*, which, after having had a very large outlay expended upon it, the Proprietors having suffered a very heavy loss, expired a natural death. He felt, also, that the Newspapers published at his office were deprived, by the *Gratis advertising sheet*, of so much of their paid receipts, as that their production was a source of anything but profit. With these impressions, in which the Proprietor of the *Omnibus* entirely concurred, he has come to the determination of ceasing to publish the *Trumpeter* on Tuesday next, after which period he earnestly solicits the favor of his advertising friends for the legitimate, the paid-for, Newspaper Press."

The *True Colonist* dates from 1833. Its sub-title was the *Despatch and Agricultural and Commercial Advertiser*. In size it was 18 in. by 10 in., four columns to each of eight pages, Friday being publication day. The price was one shilling. Mr. Gilbert Robertson was the conductor, and who paid the price of independence in cash and loss of liberty. On the state of the colony, the No. 174, January 6th, 1837, had these words: "The last *Colonial Times* contains a long address from the Editor to Sir John Franklin, giving him such information as to the writer appears necessary to guide His Excellency in the conduct of his government. But unless Sir John looks deeper into the state of the colony than his counsellor of the *Times* has done for him, we fear that he will do very little for the colony."

*Murray's Review* had expressed much sympathy for "the white slave," the convict. So the *True Colonist* implored the editor to awaken Lord Brougham and Archbishop Whately to the horrors revealed that week before the Hobart Magistrate. One case was a complaint of men, that their master, to whom they were assigned, had been so inhuman as to feed them for four days on fat roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Another unhappy man, who declared that his master had wished him to eat cold fat mutton and hot potatoes, was considerably sent by the magistrate to gaol for a week, to live at the expense of the Government.

Governor Arthur, so unpopular in Tasmania, was, after being knighted, sent to Canada. This led the *True Colonist*, August 1838, to write: "Our Government was guilty of a gross dereliction of duty, in recommending to Her Majesty, as the Governor of the most obscure colony under the Crown, a man so notorious for the anti-liberalism of his career as Sir George Arthur, much more for appointing him to such a Government as that of the Province of Upper Canada."

*Bent's News and Tasmanian Threepenny Register* started in 1835. It was of small size, four pages, four columns each, 18 inches long. July 15th, 1837, had but ten advertisements. Governor Franklin's Address to the Council occupied over five columns. The Editor reported "Colonel Arthur, our late Tyrant Governor, had safely reached England." *Bent's* shortlived *Colonial Advocate* came out in 1828.

The *Tasmanian Weekly Dispatch* struggled into existence in 1839 under Mr. John Morgan.

The *Spectator and Van Diemen's Land Gazette* saw the light early in 1846. It was printed by W. Pratt for the proprietor, Thomas Brown. There were 8 pages of four columns.

The *Van Diemen's Land Temperance Herald*, of 1845, had an advertisement of the "Geography for Australian Youth," 20pp., by James Bonwick. The paper had 8 large pages.

The *Observer, a Van Diemen's Land Journal of Politics, Agriculture, Commerce and General Intelligence*, as a bi-weekly, commenced its life June 5th, 1845, with four pages of six columns. Printed by W. Platt, owned by John Frederick Haller, it was the organ of Liberal and Protestant principles. English and general religious intelligence occupied a large space. It was well got up. The opening of the first Tasmanian synagogue was chronicled July 2nd, 1845.

The "Tasmanian Almanack for the Year of our Lord, 1826" was printed as well as compiled by Andrew Bent. Of its 80 pages, 12mo, Colonial Gardening occupied 12. The copy we saw, giving "The Civil Establishment and Public Institutions in the Dependency of Van Diemen's Land for 1826," had a line drawn through the word "Dependency," while "Island of" was written in red ink. There were then 29 magistrates, 9 clergymen of the Church of England, 1 Presbyterian, 1 Roman Catholic, and 1 Wesleyan minister. There were 12 public schools, 3 post offices, and 6 auctioneers. The Almanack was well furnished with particulars of fees, licences, prices, distances, shipping news and official notices.

The *Van Diemen's Land Monthly Magazine* appeared in September, 1835, printed by J. Ross, of fifty-four pages, 8vo. The Introductory Address asks: "Has the time arrived in which a Magazine, the recipient of whatever the colony may originate of useful and entertaining, added to the treasures collected far and near, will find support; and have a beneficial influence on the literary energies of our countrymen, and supply a vacuum in our moral and intellectual wants? We think so. A trial shall be made. European magazines have little influence in the colony. They speak very much to immediate interests; and those interests, for the most part, alien to our thoughts. They yield liberal supplies of food but none that is entirely congenial to our constitution."

Among the subjects treated in the first number, we find, Gardening, Natural History, Jacquemont's Letters from India, Spirit of the Periodicals, Sketches from Life, Poetry, Anecdotes, and a Monthly Summary of Events. The printer or writer was in fault when saying that Governor Collins went to Port Phillip, on his way to Hobart Town, in 1807. The second month continued the articles on Natural History, Gardening, &c. In the Monthly Summary is some Press news:—"This colony, containing scarcely 40,000 persons, possesses no less than *six* Newspapers. In New South Wales, containing 70,000, they have *seven* only."

The *True Catholic; or Tasmanian Evangelical Miscellany*, was brought out in January, 1848, by the Rev. W. R. Wade, Baptist Minister in Hobart, author of an interesting work upon his missionary travels in New Zealand, but now nearing his ninetieth year. It was an octavo pamphlet of 40 pages. Its leading article said: "The Press has become a powerful engine, not only for the purposes of the Statesman and the Scholar, but for the propagation of revealed Truth. To diffuse Bible Christianity and Protestant principles; to expose error, without vindictive personalities or party bitterness; to circulate intelligence of Protestant movements throughout the world; to afford to each of the Protestant Denominations in the colony a vehicle of information, and to excite to mental and moral cultivation, are our professed objects, in the Periodical now introduced to the Public. To effect these objects, we take the Scriptures as our guide. We love the souls of men more than systems; for we are persuaded that it is more charitable to expose the upholders of false systems to contempt than to have men's persons in admiration, and encourage their dominion over thousands of souls. It is not ours to ascend the pinnacle of infallible dictation, or to take to ourselves the prerogative of anathematising our fellow men."

There are articles upon: Who is the True Catholic? The Errors of Romanism? Duty of the Church of Christ. Bickersteth's "Progress of Popery," Puseyism, &c. Also, Sermons for Settlers, and Missionary Intelligence. It is announced that: "The condition under which alone *The True Catholic* can be continued, will be payment for six months in advance." The half-yearly pre-payers were not numerous enough to sustain the effort.

The *South Briton, or Tasmanian Literary Journal*, was under Mr. David Burn, who, in his first number, April, 1843, 80 pp. octavo, spoke of his difficulty in such bad times, "probably the most imprudent since the erection of Tasmania into a British Colony. Turn to whichever quarter we may, the social welkin lowers, the clouds of despondency appear to be settling, and doubt, difficulty and dismay would seem ready to quench the energy and enterprise of the clearest heads and most active hands. Of local politics, polemics and personalities, we are inflexibly determined to steer entirely clear. Our pages have been exclusively organized for the encouragement of *Belles Lettres*, together with the dissemination of every colonial requirement in art or science. It has in our little world, been frequent matter of complacent self-laudation, that for intelligence, enterprise and sound common sense, Tasmania may fearlessly challenge competition. If this vaunt be a correct one, surely the charge that the Tasmanian public is not a reading one must be imaginary."

Mr. Burn had several articles, as "The Convict Land, or Men, Manners and Matters at the Antipodes." There were poems, scraps, general news, a farmer's calendar, and a good notice of the prevalent commercial crisis, then by no means confined to the southern colonies. The times did not allow a long existence to the *South Briton*.

The *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science, Agriculture, Statistics, &c.*, commenced its first volume in 1842, giving the transactions of the Tasmanian Society, and bearing the name of James Barnard, Government Printer, Hobart. The Editor observes—"The exaltation of this country of ours depends not so much upon its natural treasures, nor yet upon the endowments of the inhabitants, as upon their diligence in its service, and the largeness of their desires for its welfare."

The Introductory Paper was by the cultured Presbyterian Minister of Hobart, the Rev. Dr. Lillie. Another Paper was by Dr. Hooker, then Assistant Surgeon on board the discovery ship *Erebus*. Other Articles were by Mr. Ronald Gunn, the naturalist; the Rev. T. J. Ewing, of Newtown; Dr. Richardson, F.R.S., and Dr. Hobson. The Journal had, also, a report of Count Strzelecki's exploration of North West Tasmania.

Mr. Melville gave, in 1833, these days of colonial publication:—*Colonial Times*, Tuesday; *Tasmanian*, Friday; *Hobart Town Courier*, Friday; *Colonist*, Friday; *Government Gazette*, Friday; *Austral-Asiatic Review*, Tuesday; *Hobart Town Chronicle*, Tuesday; *Independent* at Launceston, Saturday; *Launceston Advertiser*, Thursday.

One, in 1840, had this order:—*Hobart Town Advertiser*, Tuesday and Friday; *Courier*, Tuesday and Friday; *Murray's Review*, Tuesday; *Colonial Times*, Tuesday; *True Colonist*, Friday; *Tasmanian*, Friday; *Cornwall Chronicle*, Wednesday and Saturday; *Launceston Advertiser*, Thursday.

Mann's "Six Years' Residence in Austral Provinces" remarked upon the Island Journals and Sir John Franklin's speech:—"His Excellency therein states that there exists in the colony no such lax system of convict discipline as admits to their wielding the Public Press. It is much to be regretted that a man so kind and amiable, should be so much imposed upon by misrepresentations. In the very town in which he resides (1841) there are no less than three newspapers published weekly, under the dictation of convicts."

Captain Stoney's "Residence in Tasmania," 1856, had some words of praise for the Island Press, which "by its moderation of tone, and the intellectual ability displayed in its original matter, affords a strong contrast to the general character of the Colonial Press, and bears a favourable comparison with its more immediate continental neighbours. In Hobart, there are no less than seven newspapers, as well as publications of humbler pretensions: two being published daily, and the remainder at more or less frequent intervals during the week, and in Launceston, besides two bi-weekly Papers, ably conducted, there are several minor productions."

With a larger population, fewer newspapers now serve. The ably written *Examiner* on the north, and *Mercury* on the south, cover ground once occupied by several Journals. The day of struggle is over; but the early history of the Tasmanian Press will be found by the reader full of interest, and even of romance.

#### LIBERTY OF THE TASMANIAN PRESS.

Having previously described the legal disabilities of the Press in New South Wales, some remarks must be made upon its state in the sister island-colony. One side of the printer's freedom is alluded to by Mr. Curr, in his account of the island in 1824, when speaking of the facility with which notes at hand were struck off, observing: "It was reserved for later times to discover that a man with neither property nor credit might abound in money. Let him fly to the Printer. His press

teems with riches; he has but to name his wants, to ask and have. In my opinion this is the true *Liberty of the Press*, and all that has been said on the subject by patriots and statesmen is but empty declamation. Like many other blessings, however, it may be too good to continue."

Tasmania was not independent of Sydney control till 1825; and, therefore, enjoyed the freedom from censorship conferred by Governor Brisbane. Colonel Arthur, its first acting Governor, receiving the same directions from Earl Bathurst that were transmitted to Governor Darling, respecting a control of the colonial Press, proceeded to introduce a similar restrictive measure to that brought before Sydney, and without having the least difficulty from complacent Chief Justice Peddar.

The early struggle concerns the primitive printer of Hobart Town, Andrew Bent. As Proprietor of the *Gazette*, he came into collision with Governor Arthur as to its management, it being in a certain way a Government organ of communication with the people. Seeking independence, his right to the very title of his own Paper was disputed, till Sydney authorities confirmed it. The *Hobart Town Gazette*, of Bent's property, was the name of the Paper established afterwards by the Government as its own organ.

The *Sydney Gazette* of July 21, 1825, had these observations: "When the Printer of the *Hobart Town Gazette* was dismissed by the Government, his salary withdrawn, the Public Orders withheld, and the title of the Paper seized, we imagine it was altogether unknown to the advisers of these imprudencies that a stubborn piece of evidence was in being, which would exhibit this concatenation of errors in a true light, and conclusively prove the illegality of, at least, that part of it most to be complained of. It may be useful for those who have acted so inconsiderately to refresh their memories by a reference to a certain item in the Statement of the Colonial Fund, in the words and figures following, contained in the Supplemental Sheet of the *Hobart Town Gazette* of May the 20th, 1825, that is to say: 'Cash received from Mr. Bent, being for the like sum advanced to him on Loan by Government, for the purchase of a Press, Type, &c., £379 12s. 6d.' Now, unless it can be shown that the Government of Van Diemen's Land are in the habit of lending money to themselves to conduct and carry on their own enterprises, it does not appear to us that the very clear case of ownership to the Title of the Paper can be substantiated by them."

The English *New Monthly* for April, 1826, had this report: "The Printer of the *Hobart Town Gazette*, which the Governor seems anxious to suppress, has been found guilty generally of libel. The list of the special jury is amusing in a colony where there are men to be found in civil life equal to any that sat upon the occasion. A full-pay Major, two Captains, a Lieutenant, an Ensign, a Cornet, and a half-pay Major, tried a citizen for libel on the Government of a Lieutenant-Colonel. The matter charged as libellous would not have been thought so in the Mother Country."

A sense of wrong on one side, and petty tyranny on the other, soon produced a conflict, in which, as usual, the weaker went to the wall, and so Bent became the first victim of the Libel Acts.

But justice to the subject requires some extracts from the Press Law of Sept. 15th, 1827, styled-- "An Act to regulate the Printing and Publishing of Newspapers, and for the Prevention of blasphemous and seditious Libels."

"I. Be it enacted, by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Van Diemen's Land and its Dependencies, with the advice of the Legislative Council, That, on and from and after the fifteenth day of October, in the present year, no person shall print or publish, or cause to be printed or published, within the said Island or any Dependency thereof, any newspaper, without having obtained such license in that behalf, as is hereinafter mentioned.

"III. And be it further enacted, by the authority and with the advice aforesaid: That no quantity of paper less than a quantity equal to thirty-one inches in length and twenty-two inches in breadth, in whatever way or form the same may be made, or may be divided into leaves, or in whatever way the same may be printed or published, shall be deemed or taken to be a sheet of paper, within the meaning of this Act, and that no cover or blank leaf shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed or taken to be a part of any such newspaper, paper or pamphlet, or part or number as aforesaid.

"XXVII. requires the party so interested in a Paper to refrain from bringing such out "until he or she shall have entered into a recognizance before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land, together with two or three sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the said Chief Justice, the party intending to print or publish such newspaper in the sum of Four hundred pounds, and his or her sureties to a like sum in the whole; conditioned, that such printer or publisher shall pay to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, every such fine or penalty as may at any time be imposed upon or adjudged against him or her, by reason of any conviction for printing or publishing any blasphemous or seditious libel, at any time after the entering into such recognizance; and, that every person who shall print or publish any newspaper without having entered into such recognizance, with such securities, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the penalty or sum of Twenty pounds."

A signed copy of each Paper was to be left within ten days at the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Bent was soon brought up for libel on the Government. On that occasion the Chief Justice thus addressed him: "You urge in your defence that you did not compose any of those libels. I confess I can discern but a very slight difference between the person who composes the poison and he who disseminates it?"

The *Australian* spoke of the "offence committed nearly a year previously," for which "judgment should be at length called for," and "when the writer, especially recited as such in the very information itself, was called as a witness against Mr. Bent for publishing his (the witness's) own production."

Obliged to give up the title of *Hobart Town Gazette*, he called his Paper the *Colonial Times*; and observed, in December 6th, 1827: "Before the Newspaper Acts were passed, the *Colonial Times* never ceased to defend the people, never ceased to uphold and strengthen good government, and never ceased to disseminate instruction into the dark and remote corners of the colony. The Paper has been, after standing twelve years, suspended, and for several weeks silent."

An address to Governor Arthur, signed by leading merchants and settlers, declared the License to be "no less repugnant to British Law, and destructive of British Liberty, than impolitic and inexpedient." It was "degrading and oppressive to the colonists." The subscribers—as D. Lord, F. G. Gregson, W. Kermode, A. F. Kemp, C. McLachlan, &c.—added: "We neither identify ourselves or this Address with any particular newspaper or political views, the Freedom of the Press being our sole aim and object." Colonel Arthur's reply gave no hope of the law's repeal, "under the existing circumstances and conditions of the colony."

Bent's paper, *Colonial Times*, came out on October 19th, 1827, with the news column blank,

having this apology: "Our columns in MOURNING speak for themselves. We are prevented from delivering our sentiments to the Public, because we have neither a *Stamp* nor a *License*. We, therefore, avail ourselves of the privilege, given by Law, of confining ourselves to commercial information and advertisements ONLY, as our subscribers generally declare that *they will not admit a newspaper stamped into their houses.*"

Subsequently, on advice, Bent applied in writing for leave to conduct a newspaper, having his two sureties ready. The answer was: "His Excellency has fully considered your application, and that a License will not be granted to you." His pleading that it was his lawful business, that of printer, was of no avail. So he had to pass over his Paper to Mr. James Austin, who then applied for a License. The appearance of the blank column fourteen successive weeks told the tale.

Poor Bent had dreary months of prison. Worn out with conflict and trouble, he was proceeding to sell by auction his type and presses, when news arrived that the British Ministry had repealed the License Act. Again, therefore, January 2nd, 1829, the *Colonial Times* assumed its old appearance, after being issued only for advertisements since October 12th, 1827, leading the Editor to exclaim: "Thus may the Freedom of the Press be considered once more restored to the Colonists of Tasmania."

The *Hobart Town Courier*, under Dr. Ross, printer of the Government *Gazette*, had no share in the honour of this great Press triumph. It was while in prison that Bent started the *Colonial Advocate*; but, as he wrote to Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P.: "Dreading perpetual imprisonment under a Chancery suit, and broken down in spirit and in pocket by the persecutions I had suffered, I discontinued the *Colonial Advocate*, and was thereupon released. The *Press Licensing Act* was disallowed by Sir George Murray, Secretary for the Colonies; the announcement of which disallowance reached the colony soon after my release from prison. But the unremitting persecution, which I had suffered from Colonel Arthur, and the determination on his part to put down all free discussion, by prosecutions for *alleged* libels, and the certainty of conviction before a Military Tribunal, convinced me that to follow my occupation, as a Newspaper Proprietor and Printer, would be attended with certain ruin to myself and family."

Attempting to earn a living in another direction, he was still vindictively thwarted by officialdom. Then he gave him writing: "I engaged myself for hire to print the *Colonist* newspaper—of which Mr. Gilbert Robertson was the Editor and legal Printer—for a society of gentlemen, who, feeling alarmed at the progress of Colonel Arthur's arbitrary measures, unrestrained as he then was, by any fear of an Independent Press to expose his acts, established that Journal."

Yet, though only employed as a mechanic upon the Paper, the Government refused, on his account, to allow any assigned servants to be engaged on it, though such assistance was readily afforded to Dr. Ross of the *Courier*. So interesting is the whole story of Mr. Bent, that the reader may like his own version of it, in the following memorial, presented by Mr. Joseph Hume to the House of Commons:—

The Printer of Hobart Town, Andrew Bent, sent the following Petition to the British Parliament, —dated October 20th, 1836.

"Respectfully Sheweth,—

"That in the year 1815, your Petitioner was appointed *Government Printer*, by His Honor Colonel Thomas Davey, Lieutenant-Governor of this Colony, and continued so during the whole of his administration, as well as during the whole of the administration of his successor, Lieutenant-Governor Sorell,—a period of eleven years.

"That on the arrival of Colonel George Arthur, in the month of May, 1824, as successor to Colonel Sorell, your Petitioner was sole proprietor of the only newspaper then published in the Colony, called the *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*.

"That fifteen months after the arrival of Colonel Arthur, your Petitioner was deprived of the office of Government Printer, which was conferred on Dr. James Ross, who also, with the sanction and assistance of Colonel Arthur, *pirated* the title of your Petitioner's Newspaper. In consequence of which piracy, your Petitioner was compelled to abandon the title of his newspaper, which he had established at so early a period of the Colony, and to commence another newspaper, called the *Colonial Times*. That after this journal had been in circulation two years and three months, Colonel Arthur and his Council passed an Act, which came in force on the 19th of October, 1827, imposing a stamp duty of twopence on every newspaper, and also prohibiting any person, under exorbitant penalties, from printing or publishing a newspaper, without having first obtained a licence, for that purpose, from the Governor. Your Petitioner, after having repeatedly applied for, and been refused, a licence to print and publish a newspaper, and having embarked the whole of his property in buildings and materials for carrying on his newspaper, was compelled, for the support of his numerous family, to publish a Sheet of Advertisements, which contained no other matter, under the title of his former journal. At length, finding that the Governor was determined not to grant him a licence, your Petitioner sold the Copyright of his journal to Mr. James Austin, who was also refused a licence, it being known that he was to employ your Petitioner in the printing department. Your Petitioner was in consequence compelled to release Mr. Austin from the purchase. And, on the 28th of December, 1827, he renewed his application for a licence, which was recommended by fifty of the most respectable inhabitants. This application met with a positive *refusal*, with an intimation which convinced your Petitioner, that Colonel Arthur had determined never to allow him a licence, to print and publish a newspaper. Your Petitioner next entered into an agreement with Mr. Joseph Tice Gellibrand, a leading practitioner in the Supreme Court, and formerly Attorney-General for the Colony, for the sale of the copyright of his journal, with a condition that your Petitioner should be employed in the mechanical department. But, so determined was Colonel Arthur to prevent your Petitioner from making a living by his trade, that he informed your Petitioner, that a licence would not be granted to Mr. Gellibrand if he employed your Petitioner as a Printer. To provide for his numerous family, your Petitioner continued to publish a sheet of advertisements, under the same title as his former journal; and he also published a monthly periodical, entitled the *Colonial Advocate*. After this periodical had been published for eight months, the Government resolved to suppress it. The Editor was a young man under the sentence of the law; and a Government notice was issued, that any convict detected writing any article for a newspaper should be immediately sent to a penal settlement. The *Colonial Advocate* was not a newspaper; yet, on this Government Order, the Editor was removed to a distant settlement, while it was notorious that one newspaper, which supported Colonel Arthur's measures, was conducted by convicts. A Bill in Equity was then filed against your Petitioner, for publishing a sheet of Advertisements, under the title of the *Colonial*

*Times*; and, because your Petitioner, in ignorance, failed to answer this Bill satisfactorily, an attachment was issued against your Petitioner, who was thereupon imprisoned one month, until he was compelled to give up the *Colonial Advocate*.

"Your Petitioner was then released from prison, the sole object of the proceedings against him evidently being to destroy every semblance of a Free Press in the Colony. That, after the destruction of your Petitioner's property, by illegally subjecting the newspaper Press to a licence, and refusing your Petitioner such licence, the arbitrary and oppressive enactment of Colonel Arthur was disallowed by His Majesty; notification of which disallowance was published here on the 24th December, 1828; that by these illegal and arbitrary acts of Colonel Arthur, your Petitioner has suffered a pecuniary loss, exceeding three thousand pounds, besides what he has suffered by oppressive, illegal fines and imprisonment, on the most frivolous charges for libel; that although your Petitioner is advised that Colonel Arthur is liable to an action at law to your Petitioner, for the loss sustained by him, in consequence of the illegal suppression of his Newspaper, that the great losses which he has sustained, for the large family for which he has to provide, put it out of his power to follow Colonel Arthur to England, where only he could obtain redress. Your Petitioner, therefore, most respectfully submits his claims for compensation, with the losses he has sustained, to the justice of the representatives of the British Nation. Trusting that your Honorable House will look with jealousy upon the arbitrary acts of a Governor of a distant colony, who would deprive His Majesty's subjects of that birthright of Britons, that palladium of British liberty—a Free Press.

"Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Honorable House will take into your serious consideration, the illegal and oppressive conduct of Colonel Arthur towards your Petitioner, and that you will recommend to His Majesty to grant your Petitioner such compensation, pecuniary or in Colonial lands as will be equivalent to the injury and loss he has sustained through the illegal Ordinances passed by Colonel Arthur, by refusing him a licence, thereby depriving him of his hard earned and legal property, as well by his imprisonment by printing a sheet of advertisements.

"And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

ANDREW BENT.

"October 20, 1836."

His subsequent trials were apparent in his advertisement of August, 1843, in a Sydney Journal:—"Mr. A. Bent, late Newspaper proprietor of Van Diemen's Land, would feel most happy to treat with any of the proprietors of newspapers, or other gentlemen intending to commence a public journal, either in New South Wales, or any of the Australasian Colonies,—as the printer, sub-conductor, reader, or superintendent of their printing establishment. His long practical experience in the profession, he being now the Father of the Press in these Colonies, and, especially in attending to the details of, and which is a very great advantage in conducting a newspaper, induces him to think, or hope, at least, that he might be of some use in that capacity to the public."

He was eventually obliged to make known his circumstances; and published the "Appeal of Mr. Andrew Bent to the generous inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land." The *Sydney Morning Chronicle*, of February 1st, 1845, alluding thereto, said: "The Tasmanians must admit that Mr. Bent and his numerous and amiable family, have the strongest claims upon their generosity in their very distressful circumstances. The press will, of course, consider it a duty it owes to the "Father of the Tasmanian Press." He is elsewhere called the "Tasmanian Franklin."

Mr. Gilbert Robertson, first of the *Colonial Times*, then of the *True Colonist*, incurred a heavy fine, and was sent to prison two months for libel. One, in 1839, spoke of a Press dinner then in Hobart; saying, "before the company sat down, a deputation waited on him in the prison, and bore with them a portion of the feast, of which he must have partaken with a degree of pleasure, which no base truckling to power or self-interest could have bestowed."

Fenton's "History of Tasmania" takes another view of Robertson; remarking: "His heart was the reservoir of a deadly hatred towards Governor Arthur, which found vent twice a week in the editorial columns of the *True Colonist*. He had four months and a fine of £60 at one time, double the amount at another, and twelve months at a third trial; the last was for a libel on the Governor's nephew." A reporter of the *Colonial Times* has this sketch of his prison:—"This Editor's sitting room and bedroom are one and the same. It is a lobby, immediately over the gaol guard room, and has the open staircase leading into it. Its only comfort consists in two glazed iron-barred windows. It has no fire place."

On the Launceston side of the Island, Mr. Goodwin's *Cornwall Chronicle* took the patriotic side; while Mr. John P. Fawcner's *Advertiser* was the defender of officialdom, and abusive of the assertors of Press freedom.

Mr. Henry Melville, for many years the friend of the writer of this narrative, was also the victim of press prosecution. A man of superior education, of indomitable will, and of persistent energy; he long conducted the *Colonial Times* with ability and independence. For an earnest pleading, November 3rd, 1835, on behalf of Mr. Bryan, against authority, he was condemned to twelve months' imprisonment and a fine of £200. It was, while in gaol, that he wrote that powerful pamphlet—"The Administration of the Government by Colonel George Arthur." This was a severe criticism of Colonial policy, with an elaborate and even learned review of the legal judgment, from which he was then suffering. "Editors and such like," said he, "are condemned by Colonel Arthur as fit companions of the twice and thrice convicted felons."

We have heard both Mr. and Mrs. Melville describe the sufferings of that period; but a Tasmanian paper had this account:—"On Mr. Melville being first incarcerated, he was locked up with Mr. Robertson in a condemned cell, from whence the man-eater Pearce, the aborigines, and some score of malefactors, were taken to execution. The vermin and the confined space rendered the imprisonment the description of torture the merciful authorities no doubt intended. All that Mr. Melville requires is a room or cell to himself, and that his wife may be allowed to remain with him; not a great deal to ask, when a man is illegally incarcerated for an offence which he was ignorant of having committed; and convicted, too, by a man who was his own judge, his own jury, and his own prosecutor, and that man, too, one of the most prejudiced and hottest tempered in the Colony."

In his Memorial to the British Parliament, contained in his publication of 1836, called "A voice from Van Diemen's Land," he described himself as "now imprisoned in His Majesty's gaol at Hobart Town, under a Sentence of the Supreme Court, for an alleged contempt upon the said Court, in the person of one of the judges." Besides his own heavy fine, his two sureties were condemned in £150 each. The Memorial asks the House for "that justice to which, as a British subject he is entitled."

Mr. Melville said he felt it very hard "That in order to prevent immediate incar-

ceration in prison, your Petitioner applied to be liberated on bail, whereupon the bail of your Petitioner were compelled to enter into recognizances, not only for the appearance of your petitioner to answer the interrogatives, but that your Petitioner *should* answer them."

Still, the trouble came to an end; though not before Mr. Melville, once possessed of a comfortable estate, was virtually ruined. After engagements upon other Papers in Adelaide, Melbourne, &c.; he came to England, where he was a well-known masonic authority and writer, and where he brought out his learned work, "Veritas." He died without seeing this book in a bound form; and his widow was afterwards laid in a Jersey grave, with a monumental record of her as the wife of the "Father of the Tasmanian Press."

He helped, by his sufferings and adherence to a sense of duty, to procure the emancipation of the Press in Tasmania; and he is justly associated with Bent and Howe as martyrs in the printer's cause.

#### "COLONIAL ADVOCATE."

The full title was *Colonial Advocate and Tasmanian Monthly Review and Register*, appearing March 1st, 1828. Though of foolscap size as to length, it was more in width. It was printed by Andrew Bent, at the *Colonial Times* office, under the peculiar circumstances of that age of Press Terror. There were fifty pages, or 150 columns, of reading matter, besides two pages for the thirty-nine advertisements. The price of the number was five shillings.

Some extracts from the Introduction show the idea of this publication:—

"It is not a Newspaper, although in most respects it combines the features of one. It is not a Magazine, and it is a Magazine. It is, in fact, a Journal—a public Record, a Register of passing events, a Review of Politics, and an epitome of useful and practical information. But we do not say we have no politics; that would be both an absurdity and an untruth. Our politics are *general*, but they are *just*; our censures will be applied to measures, not men."

"It is, we know, the universal opinion that, by the ill-advised measures of our Colonial Legislators, (in laying the Press under restrictions, the like of which we know not of in England or elsewhere, and taxing the profits of the poor brethren of the type to an extent bordering on a prohibition of Newspapers), steps have been urged which would never otherwise have been imagined, much less taken, nor should we have ever been in existence but for the suspension of the *Colonial Times*, by withholding a license from Mr. Bent, and also from the individual to whom he sold the copyright of his Paper."

"It was the suppression of a Newspaper which dragged us into public life, and the tenour of the Press restrictive Acts themselves have driven us to assume the shape and features of a Monthly Magazine, to be published in numbers, each number containing more than three sheets of paper of a given dimension. As we at present appear, we are not within the compass of either the License or Stamp Acts. Our work is several hundred square inches larger than the stipulated size of a Newspaper, according to the delineation of that *monstra horrendum* given by the Newspaper License Act. Therefore we are not a Newspaper."

The first article, original, on "The British Constitution," occupied fifteen columns; one on "The Ministry," eleven; "The Colonial Press," nine; "The Tasmanian Press," seven; "The Van Diemen's Land Company," thirteen columns. Among other subjects were: English and Colonial News, the Army and Navy, State of Trade, Colonial Politics, Agriculture, Church, School, Police, Bank, Marine Register, London Fashions, Cunningham's "New South Wales," Wool, Vine, Prices, Births and Deaths, Poetry, &c.

The October, and last, number was of interesting variety, with sensible articles and much instructive matter. At the end thereof was the following: "To the Public—In giving publicity to the present and eighth number of the *Colonial Advocate*, Mr. Bent begs to apprise his Friends and the Public that, in consequence of his present confinement, together with other circumstances, rendering it impossible for him to attend to the business personally, he is induced thus to announce his intention of retiring from public life, and concluding the series of *Advocates* with the present number. Mr. Bent feels most acutely the peculiarity of his situation, and cannot, under any circumstances, retire from the field, in which he has been so many years maintained, without a public expression of his gratitude to those numerous Patrons of the Press who have honoured him with their support and assistance. Nor would he at the present time cease to print the *Advocate* were such a step by any means unavoidable." This was addressed from "His Majesty's Gaol, October 7th, 1828."

He then notified that the Plant of the Paper was for sale. Elsewhere, we record the labours and trials of the Press martyr, Andrew Bent.

*Bent's News and Tasmanian Threepenny Register* was published on Saturday. Its 80th number, at the British Museum, is dated June 15th, 1837.

#### "THE HERMIT IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND."

That which gave the *Colonial Times* a great notoriety throughout Australia, some sixty years ago, were the letters, signed "The Hermit of Van Diemen's Land," which appeared in its columns. These were well written, and singularly similar to the productions of "Junius." As political articles, they were regarded as decidedly effective. They were reprinted from the *Colonial Times* of 1829 in a small duodecimo of 154 pages.

The copy preserved in the British Museum is of great interest to students of Australian literature, as it has, on the flyleaf, the story concerning the unfortunate *Hermit* himself, from the pen of the present writer's old friend, Henry Melville, the former owner of the *Colonial Times*, and the Press martyr under Governor Arthur. The record is dated 1839, and runs thus:—

"Henry Savery, a merchant of Bristol, was, about the year 1825, transported for forgery, and was a Crown prisoner when in jail in 1829. In the same jail in Hobart Town was Thomas Wells, incarcerated for common debt. Savery wrote all the 'Hermit,' and Wells copied for the printer. At that time, if the authorities knew that a prisoner wrote for the Press, the punishment was transportation to the penal settlement of Macquarie Harbour. Hence arose the mystery about the authorship of the 'Hermit.' I believe all the parties mentioned, except myself, are in Spirit Land. On obtaining his ticket of leave, Savery became a great agriculturalist, and failed. He again committed forgery, and was sent to the penal settlement of Port Arthur, where he destroyed his life by cutting his own throat. He was the author of 'Quintus Servinton,' of which he is the hero. The undersigned printed the work, and was at the time the editor, printer, and proprietor of the

*Colonial Times* newspaper. The writing, page 141, is that of Andrew Bent, from whom the undersigned bought the *Colonial Times* and printing establishment in 1832.

(Signed).

"HENRY MELVILLE.

"November, 1830."

On page 141, Bent says he owned the estate of Woodlands, afterwards purchased by Joseph Hone, Esq. The names of parties alluded to in the publication anonymously have been inserted by someone on the margins of pages. Upon the last blank page the transcriber had a word: "W. Wells wrote this while in jail for debt in Hob. Town, against the Lawyers and Barristers, but principally against Butler, Pitcairn, and John Dunn. A verdict of £50 was obtained by Pitcairn against the Publisher for Libel."

Our story of the "Early Struggles of the Tasmanian Press" ends with this bit of Press Romance.

## EARLY STRUGGLES OF THE PRESS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ALTHOUGH for so many years feeble among the British Colonies, and long regarded as the Cinderella of the Australasian group, Western Australia exhibited the vitality of a Press amidst solitariness and depression.

The first settlers of 1830 came, it is true, from an England just awakening to intellectual life, and the greater part of them were rude agricultural peasants, whose passage, as indentured servants, had been paid thither by those to whom large grants of acreage had been made in the new land. But it was not long before a Newspaper was required, and an opposition Press as naturally sprang into existence. Byrne, whose "Twelve Years' Wanderings" extended from 1835 to 1847, wrote:—"Although so limited in number, the Western Australians can boast of no less than three Newspapers, exclusive of the Government *Gazette*. These are conducted with energy and ability, particularly the *Perth Inquirer*, whose editor is not only a scholar and a gentleman, but also an able and zealous advocate for his adopted land. It certainly does seem strange, that in this young colony there should actually exist one paper for every thousand inhabitants, including all ages; but the fact speaks well for the character of the people, for their desire for information and thirst after knowledge."

Assuredly the "early struggles" must have consisted in the search for subscribers, and the hunt after advertisements. But no other colony, at any time, could boast of such a proportion of people and Press. Indeed, even in 1877, with not 30,000 souls, there were four papers.

What is very interesting, and places Western Australia in a pleasing light, is the fact that in the first year of its colonisation, 1830, a Paper was established, though only in MS. A writer of Calcutta thus refers to his visit, in 1830, to the Swan River Settlement:—"The town at present contains about a dozen wooden cottages, as many grass huts, one or two stone buildings, two hotels, several stores and shops, an auction mart, a butcher's shop, where once a week fresh meat may be bought, and a baker's shop, kept by a Chinaman, where unleavened bread is sometimes to be had. A Newspaper, called the *Freemantle Journal*, in manuscript, is published weekly, which, like everything else, bears a very remunerating price: it is issued *only* to subscribers, at ten guineas, yearly subscription, and three shillings a copy on delivery." The writer further remarks: "It is a manuscript of one foolscap sheet;" adding: "John Bull, wherever he is, cannot be without his newspaper." Perth had then a church of reeds, but looked to Freemantle for its news. The manuscript Newspaper did not present many numbers in 1832, and then ceased.

Buckton's "Western Australia," 1840, says: "There is published in the colony at present a weekly Newspaper, under the name of the *Perth Gazette*." The *Gazette* was long printed and published by C. Macfaull, who also printed the Government *Gazette*. The *Inquirer* was brought out by F. Lochée. The *Freemantle Herald* struggled as a weekly. The *Catholic Record* and *St. George's Journal* were subsequently issued monthly a short time. Between July, 1847, and July, 1848, there were 8,187 Papers sent through the Western Australian Post."

The most important among the early Western Australian Papers was the *Perth Gazette*.

The PERTH GAZETTE AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL (new series) made its appearance January 5th, 1833. The Paper was 14½ inches in length by 9½ in width, having four pages, three columns each, and much of it in singularly large type. The price was one shilling the copy. An advertisement of 8 lines cost 3s. 6d., with 3d. additional line.

A Government Notice on the landing of Spirits leads the way, followed by the then required public notices of persons intending to leave the colony, with the name of their vessel. A lady advertised her "Wheat Sheaf Tavern," and mentioned her continuance of the dairy, and her commencement of a bakery. The list of Imports and Shipping News followed.

Correspondents are informed that no communication will be inserted unless authentic. The Address to the Public is given in the name of C. Macfaull, Editor:—"Fully sensible of the many obligations I owe to my friends and the public, for the flattering manner in which the announcement of the arrival of a new Press was received, and with every acknowledgment for the kind assurances of support and patronage which have been voluntarily proffered, I again commence my labours in a cause (the true interests of the colony) which it shall be my constant and unremitting study to advance. The general satisfaction which has been expressed, at the re-establishment of a journal in this colony, is an honourable proof that the members of our little community keep pace in the 'march of mind' with the advancement of our neighbours; and the constant encouragement which the Press has met with here, at so unprecedented a period in the formation of any colony, has distinguished us abroad, and is as creditable to our intelligence as it is characteristic of the advancement of the present age. I have no desire to revive the unpleasant recollections connected with the discontinuance of my former Publication, and the establishment by Captain Graham of a weekly Paper under the title of the *Western Australian*. It is a source of satisfaction to myself that the tone and sentiments of the *Western Australian*, although the title closely resembled mine, would never lead it to be mistaken for the *Western Australian Journal*."

The chief English news was the third reading of the Reform Bill being carried in the House of Lords by a majority of eighty-four, though most of the Opposition did not vote.

Number 2 of the *Journal* was extended in size to 17½ by 11 inches. Number 107, January 17th, 1835, fell back to 15 by 9½, though resuming the larger paper on May 9th. Again it dropped to 16½ by 11 on April 2nd, 1836, but recovered its size on June 11th, upon a coarse, brown paper. This rough material lasted till August 13th when a better paper was obtained yet an inch-and-a-quarter less in

length. By December 3rd, the full size, on good paper, was resumed. September 9th, 1837, witnessed the reduction to 15 inches by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , till the correct paper was found for October 13th, 1838.

The second *Journal* has this record: "In the hurry of going to press last week, we overlooked many inaccuracies, which has amused us, as much as it has amused some of our Readers. We are glad to contribute in any way to so desirable an end, and we trust, considering the difficulties we have to contend with, we shall not be judged too severely."

Colonel Hanson's pamphlet on the colony, published in India, furnished extracts for several weeks. It pleaded for the transportation of native convicts from India to the Swan River. It asserted that the Sound would, as a settlement, "supersede the whole of the Australian countries east of it."

The state of the colony is indicated by this statement in February, 1833: "The usual discount on a loan is 25 per cent., and it is no uncommon circumstance, when a loan can be obtained at all, for one-half the sum to be advanced in stores, which it may be imagined are not charged at a very reduced rate."

The Printer, March 9th, made an apology: "Owing to a sudden attack of illness, we have been prevented from lending sufficient assistance this week in the operative part of this journal, to ensure its completion. We must therefore solicit the indulgence of our Readers." In consequence, the last page was left a perfect blank. Room was found elsewhere for this local: "A few days ago a woman, known by the name of *Boy Tom*, was knocked down by her husband, by Public Auction, without reserve, and with all faults, for the small sum of Ten Pounds. The fair bargain is said to be perfectly satisfied with her *haltered* situation. It may be as well to remark that this price is by no means to be taken as a criterion of the market, which has been indifferently well supplied, and females of first *chop* meet with ready purchasers at remunerating prices."

A work on the Aborigines of the West, by R. M. Lyon, affords some interesting extracts for April numbers. His defence of the natives called forth some strong animadversions from those who had suffered from the Blacks. On May 1st, the Government offered £20 for two natives, dead or alive, charged with murder. One was captured, tried, condemned, and shot by a military party, instead of hanging him. The natives kept the colony in much alarm for several years. In September were published some descriptions of the colony from documents in the Surveyor-General's Office, one being Lieutenant Dale's discovery east of Darling Range, and another, Surveyor Roe on Port Leschenault. The want of money turned the Editor's attention to Mr. Thimbleby's "*Monadelphia*; or, the formation of a New System of Society, without the intervention of a Circulating Medium." The issue of December 14th had only six advertisements from the public, and those short ones. The Printer then started a very heavy black letter to the first word of each advertisement. This was continued for years after.

As is well known, several of the Henty family migrated from Perth to Launceston, and thence to Portland Bay. The *Perth Gazette* of February 1st, 1834, thus notices them: "We are happy to find that Mr. Thomas Henty, the father of the gentlemen who came to this colony amongst some of our first settlers, and were induced to leave it from private motives, has at length taken the opportunity of visiting us. He has been heard to express great astonishment at our advanced state." Among Notices to Correspondents were "Bachelors by Auction—a Dream, is too sleepy for our columns." The Editor feared to offend a subscriber, but desires him to submit his poem first to a friend, especially the following lines:—

"I dreamt a dream in the midst of my slumbers,  
And as fast as I dreamed it came into numbers;  
My thoughts ran along in such beautiful metre,  
I'm sure I never saw poetry sweeter."

The Printer, like the rest of his trade, had piteous appeals for cash on neglected accounts.

A fine story came from the *Leeds Mercury* of the discovery, in 1832, of a settlement of whites at Raffles Bay, North Australia, descendants of some shipwrecked Dutchmen, 170 years before! There were said to be 300 living in rude huts, clothed in skins. They were nominal Christians, but had neither books nor schools, though keeping the Sabbath. Their marriages were made without any ceremony. A gentleman from the East said he was one who saw these strange people in April, 1832. Excepting some Government Notices, there were, December 20th, 1834, but four advertisements sent in to the Printer; three connected with houses, and one with sale of liquors, &c. The next week there were six private advertisements. The Printer might well be urgent upon defaulters to settle their bills. On April 11th, 1835, there were ten advertisements, and four Government Notices.

Referring to the projected colony of South Australia, the *Journal* of April 18th, 1835, noted the news of the collapse of the scheme, adding: "It is well the bubble has burst." On November 10th we read: "The Southern Colony is now fully established on paper." In noticing forthcoming sports, on the anniversary of settlement, the Editor wrote: "One word to the wise, and those who are otherwise—avoid drunkenness; it will be the means of disturbing the enjoyments of the day, and put a stop to the sports."

The Editor, January 2nd, 1836, exposed the attempt to hoax the Editor of the *Hobart Town Courier*, re a MS. newspaper. The *Courier* had this story: "Swan River.—The smaller the place, the hotter the politics, is a saying, the truth of which is confirmed in the town of Perth. So violent are the disputes, that an opposition journal, in manuscript, is now published, entitled the *Freemantle Argus*." The *Perth Gazette* replied: "We can assure Dr. Ross that no manuscript journal has been published in the colony for the last four years."

A change is recorded, February 13, 1836. The Official Notices were from that time to appear in a *Government Gazette*, though copied in this journal. Upon this, the Paper had some remarks the week after: "As it has been asserted, and a vulgar prejudice entertained, that we were under the trammels of Government, we consider it incumbent upon us to offer some few observations. We have never been influenced, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of this Journal for upwards of three years, by any individual interference, or the sway of any party."

The unfortunate Printer, introducing to his subscribers, on March 19th, the wretched sugar wrapping paper, remarked: "We are under the disagreeable necessity of apologizing to our subscribers generally for the paper on which this number is printed. By the next arrivals, either from the Cape of Good Hope or the sister colonies, we are in expectation of receiving a supply of suitable paper." This coarse material was the only sort obtainable after search and advertisement. The issue, however, contained the newly-introduced motto: "Neither conscience nor taste will suffer me



to fight one class or interest against another, for separate benefit, or to take the narrow ground of undeviating panegyric."

That number contained but five advertisements, with five extracted from the Government *Gazette*. The 7th of May had ten, three being from S. G. Henty; yet on June 4th the Paper had but one private advertisement and two Commissary Notices. The week following, the enterprising public could only forward one advertisement of four lines, which was allowed to appear again in the next issue. Possibly, the worthy tradespeople, unable to decipher the print on the miserable paper, deemed it folly to send advertisements till better paper came into port.

The poet's corner in July has the objects of a Printer's Love; the last verse runs:

"We love all these—yet far above  
All that we ever said,  
We love—what every Printer loves—  
To have SUBSCRIPTIONS paid."

The number for August 27th, 1836 states:—"The necessity of erecting a place of public worship is now weighing seriously on the minds of some of the inhabitants of Perth." Louis Giustiniani then began his Western Australian Mission to the natives.

In September came the announcement, by the sole proprietor, Mr. C. Bourne, Perth, of another Member of the Press:—"The Public are respectfully informed that on Thursday, the 6th of October, a Weekly Newspaper is to be published at Perth, called the 'Swan River Guardian.' This newspaper will be conducted on independent and liberal principles, by William Nairne Clark, Solicitor, and sole Editor of the "Guardian." The object of the new publication is to expose all abuses, curb the insolence of office, and advocate in a legitimate manner, the Rights of the People, consistent with a due regard for a proper administration of our Civil and Moral Institutions, as by law established. Nothing of a personal nature against any individual shall ever appear; but the public must be protected against haughty assumption and official tyranny."

The Journal of October 8th, recorded:—"A weekly Paper, under the title of the 'Swan River Guardian,' edited by Mr. Clark, was published at Perth, on Thursday last." The Perth Church was opened that month.

The first number of January, 1837, notices in its *Leader*:—"An Act to adopt an Act of the 11th, Geo. 4, and 1st Wm. 4, c. 73, to provide some remedy against the abuse of publishing libels, will be brought before the Legislative Council, on Tuesday next. An erroneous impression appears to have been entertained—namely: that a Colonial Act is to be passed to *gag the Press*—the Act merely being intended to adopt and bring into operation the law of England with regard to the Press, the chief part of which has been in force for the last forty years."

The Bank of Western Australia issued its prospectus in January, 1837. The Editor at that time called attention to the condition of the colony, saying: "Live stock is about the same price as in Van Diemen's Land. The duty on spirits with us is three shillings per gallon, and nine shillings with our neighbours, and we have no *ad valorem* duty as in New South Wales. Food and luxuries are therefore, upon the whole, as cheap as in other countries."

A pink coloured paper was used in August, 1837. The 15 by 9 inches paper lasted from September 9th, 1837 to October 13th, 1838; yet the reduction did not hinder the Printer in the first number of 1838, saying:—"We are now entering upon the sixth year of our efforts for the advancement, the peace and good will, of the members of this colony; and we feel no little gratification in reflecting that, after so many years of probation and trial, we enjoy the confidence, assistance and support of the greater portion of our brother colonists."

The visit to Perth of the Quaker Missionaries, Messrs. James Backhouse and George Washington Walker, was recorded in January, 1838.

The *Perth Gazette's* opinion of a rival was rather plainly indicated in February:—"The *Guardian* newspaper, edited and published by Mr. W. N. Clark, was supposed to have put an end to its ephemeral existence, from a want of encouragement, and a consequent lack of funds. The compositor and printer's demands not being satisfied, the Paper was stopped for one week—but it was renewed, and it has since then carried on its infamous traffic in personal abuse and slander, to the great injury of the Editor. The man who can descend to such pitiful tricks to procure—we cannot say to earn—his daily bread, can but take one other step to make him the unenvied associate of rogues and vagabonds."

In the report of a Committee to consider the state of the Colony, October, 1838, one heading was—"On the introduction of Labour, whether Convict or Free."

An undertaker sent to the *Gazette* the following, on the decease of a recent Newspaper:—

"Thy *outer form*, tho' something with a blot on,  
Betrayed no sign of premature decay;  
But oh! thy *inner form*, corrupt and rotten,  
Like thy supporters—as corrupt as they.  
"Old thou wert not—not e'en one winter;  
One summer thou couldst number here;  
And now thy deepest mourner is the Printer—  
The *Devil* himself will shed a briny tear."

The uniform size of the *Gazette* had no change to 1844, excepting in the reduction from August 17th, 1839, to November 30th. A break down called forth this on January 5th, 1839:—"We regret exceedingly that we are under the necessity of offering an apology to the public, for a temporary cessation of this journal, owing to an accident which occurred to our press. The difficulty which is felt in the colony of remedying such casualties will, we hope, be received as a sufficient excuse for the non-appearance of our last number."

In the issue for January 4th, 1840, four pages, three columns each, there were but 18 advertisements, public and private: in the four column issue, same sized paper, for January 2nd, 1842, there were 26. January 8th, 1842, is styled number 465-6, having this Printer's story: "The non-delivery of our Journal last week, we regret to say, was occasioned by a sudden attack of illness experienced by our principal compositor. The publication of the Almanack for 1842, unfortunately, is delayed from the same cause." The paper for January 7th, 1843, had 10 Government and 27 private advertisements; the last of that year had 16 public and 35 private ones.

The SWAN RIVER GUARDIAN appeared as a weekly toward the close of 1836, the ninth number being Thursday, December 1st. It is declared: "Edited by William Nairne Clark, Solicitor in the Civil Court: printed and published by Charles Bourne, sole proprietor. Terms of subscription, 3s. per quarter if paid in advance, and 9s. and 9d. if paid at the end of the quarter; single number, 9d." The representation of a black swan adorns the space between "Swan" and "River."

There were four pages, three columns each, of very poor type. The paper question, ever a difficulty with old colonial printers, was a peculiar one. The size was various—10 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 9, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 10, 11 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 11, &c. There were three advertisements on December 1st, and four on the week after.

It was assuredly a lively Paper. The charge into Surveyor-General Roe and the Editor of the *Perth Gazette*, on December 1st, 1836, was after this fashion: "showing forth that the servile Editor and his Masters are PUBLIC LIARS, and ought to be hissed out of the colony. Why does the Editor of the *Perth Gazette* not tell the truth? Why does he bow his knee in this most abject, contemptible, and shuffling way to a man (Mr. Roe) that has well nigh ruined Swan River? The whole object of our Governor seems to be to promote his own interests and those of his crew."

The motto of the *Guardian*, taken from Pope, was—

"What right, what true, what fit we justly call—  
Let this be all my care—for this is all."

"Some people may exclaim," says the Editor, "this newspaper is not the *Guardian* of Swan River as it professes to be; but we tell such cavillers that it is the real Protector of the colony." He calls his rival "the Postmaster-General-Government Printer-and Government Editor."

January 5th, 1837, has this editorial: "People of Swan River, awake! Arouse yourselves! Your rights as free-born Britons are at stake, and, unless you all unite, and make one great effort, the Liberty of your Press will be effectually crushed by a crew of paid Government officials. Hear the astounding intelligence. A Bill is to be brought before the Legislative Council on Tuesday next to gag the Free Press of Swan River, and to impose taxes. The Editor of this newspaper begs to inform Messrs. Mackie and Moore (of the Council), that two hundred people of the labouring classes of Perth have subscribed out of their hard earnings 2s. 6d. per week to support the *Swan River Guardian*."

On January 19th there came the heading of an article, "The Free Press is Crushed." It said that, "Sir James Stirling (Governor), in proposing the second reading of the Bill, stated, in a most feeling and animated speech (we observed him trembling), that he was a British subject, and deserved protection as well as others." "The *Guardian* has effected one grand object—viz., a reduction in the amount of the required sureties, which are now proposed to be £600 instead of £1,200." The end of the article ran as follows: "We now announce that the object of the Governor and his paid Council is at last attained, not by fair argument against facts which speak for themselves, or Trial by Jury, but by LEGAL FORCE. Our numerous subscribers are therefore informed that this is the last number of the *Guardian* which will be published, as the Editor cannot fight single-handed against the power of Might."

Yet the next Paper, though a fortnight after, has an onslaught upon the *Gazette* Editor: "Satire, invective, argument, failed in rousing the Government Editor from his obscurity to take up the cause of his Masters, and fight us hand to hand. At last a novel idea struck us, and that was to stop the publication of the *Guardian* for one week, certainly at the risk of displeasing our subscribers, but at the same time in full confidence that the Government Editor would then flourish his goose quill. Now, Mr. Government Editor, we have at last caught you; and, before we quit our hold, you shall have a shaking which we hope will do you good." The week following, the *Guardian* cried: "Mr. Macfaull and his masters have shown the white feather."

The Editor's History of the Colony takes the various officials to task for so-called jobs. "A corrective Press," said he, "was much required in this colony. On his visit to England, Captain Stirling sent out a printing press and types, which were let to Mr. Charles Macfaull, who is now the Government Editor, Printer, and Postmaster-General." Again he wrote: "With regard to Mr. Macfaull, the man is too contemptible for notice at present. In due time we shall pull his long ears, and make him bray till he is hoarse."

When six weeks passed without an issue, the Editor wrote, September 14th: "Notwithstanding the taunts of the foes of the People, this Journal, after a short interregnum, is again ushered forth to the Public."

Then came the following: "Proposals for establishing the Free Press on a firm basis:—1st. A Free Press operates as a check against all public abuses of whatsoever nature, more especially at Swan River, which is situated so far from the Mother Country. 2nd. The *Perth Gazette* is under control, and does not represent the People. 3rd. The subscribers, therefore, agree to support an Independent Journal in the most efficient manner, by subscribing a certain sum according to the individual means of each, or, paying sixpence per week into the hands of a treasurer to defray the printers' wages, &c., independent of the price of the Paper, which is to be one shilling."

One shilling became the price of the few remaining issues. The same system of abusive criticism continued.

The INQUIRER, A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND LITERATURE, for January 3rd, 1844, is numbered 179. It became weekly on July 7, 1840. The motto was *Occulta vitia inquirere*. The price was one shilling the copy. In size, the length was 17 inches, and the breadth 11 inches, with six pages of three columns each. There were 30 advertisements in this number before us in London. It was edited, printed, and published, by the proprietor, Francis Lochée, Perth.

The Agricultural Society's Report sets forth the colony's condition. A long letter to home authorities upon colonization and land surveys is continued. The local matters are rather huddled together. The hope of an outlet for Swan River timber was then declining. A forthcoming work on the colony was advertised. It was to be published in London by the energetic solicitor, Mr. Nairne Clark, once editor of a lively Perth weekly. The vineyard question occupied considerable attention, engaging nearly twelve columns in the issue of January 10.

A manuscript publication of the colony is thus noticed January 31st, 1844: "We have been favoured with a copy of a very clever and amusing magazine, published in manuscript at Bunbury, and edited by Andrew Stirling, Esq., and Dr. Allen, called the *Leichenault Sun-Beam*. The work will be continued monthly.

The *Sun-Beam's* conclusions as to the Australind Company were these: "Never put faith in any

companies, either joint-stock or otherwise. If you become a shareholder, you are certain to have to stump up more money than you bargained for; and if you purchase anything they may have on sale, you are sure to be cheated."

Correspondents in that day were often free in their remarks. One, signing himself "Swindle," is indignant at colonial treatment by the mother country; saying, that "in the colonies there was but one opinion, namely, that the faith of Great Britain is like the chastity of a harlot, and her performance of contracts dependent on her power to violate them." Piteous were the cries about the *Bad Times*, yet one sensibly declared: "We deserve reproach, it is true, but it is for our folly, not for our poverty. We have been too familiar with Laftte, and have hobnobbed too freely with Bass and Perkins. These exercises were extremely pleasant at the time, but like the barrels which we tapped, we have been gradually drained to the dregs, and now we are fit only to be kicked into a corner, like empty casks. It is the refilling which is the most important concern, both to brewers and statesmen." The writer, February 28th, called himself "Cassandra."

Advertisements were still but few: 36 on March 30th; 33 on July 3rd; 28 on October 2nd; 25 on January 8th, 1845; 19 on April 2nd; 14 on July 2nd; 19 on October 1st, rising to 29 in the last number of 1845. Even in 1846, we meet with 16, 24, 22, 22, 20—indiscriminately taken. The year 1847 opened with 32, but 19 in April, 19 in July, 35 in October, 36 on December 29th. The price, 3s. 6d. for 8 lines, was reduced one half after the first insertion. The Paper continued one shilling the copy, or the Printer must have closed his cases.

The Editor, Mr. W. H. Scholl, was mentioned in 1847, above the Notice, "Printed and published by Edmund Stirling, for sole proprietor." In 1846, it was, "Edited, printed, and published, by the Proprietor, Richard West Nash." In 1845 and 1844, we have, "Edited, printed and published by the proprietor, Francis Lochee." Six pages occasionally were afforded to the Public. A coarse paper appeared in October, 1845.

The usual rivalry existed between the *Inquirer* and the *Perth Gazette*. The former had this sketch of the latter, September 16th, 1846:—"The incubations of this abortion of the Press are certainly an 'occultum vitium,' so far as the public are concerned; and as long as its malice is directed against ourselves, we of course make use of it to afford a little sport to our readers; but when it becomes practically mischievous, we feel it our duty to give it a check. It affects the character of an independent Press. Are the public aware that the press and the type are Government property, and that the very existence of the Paper is maintained by the Public Treasury? The attempt at a Newspaper is a dead loss, and is so justly appreciated, that the circulation would scarcely provide the paper and ink; but it being necessary to keep a compositor to print the Government work, he may as well be employed in striking off the two or three columns of new blunders, and ten or twelve of stereotype matter, called the *Perth Gazette*."

The *Inquirer* continued its modest size of 17½ by 11 inches, with four pages of three columns, and an occasional one page supplement, till August, 1851, when its four pages stretched a length of 20½ with a width of 14½ inches, each page having five columns.

The first number of January, 1851, had thirty-three advertisements. The Editor is jubilant at the prospects of the colony since "the conversion of the Colony into a Penal Settlement," and that "in compliance with the petition of the colonists;" adding: "It is vain to expatiate upon the increased impetus given to agriculture, cattle rearing and trade, by this change." Some trouble came with the gladly welcomed prisoners of Britain, as this *local* implies:—"The convicts at Freemantle have been quarrelling with their bread and butter. On Monday morning they assembled as usual at breakfast, when, according to custom, one of them was required to say Grace. This he refused to do, observing that he wouldn't say grace for such miserable bread."

The *Swan River Miscellany* was advertised to appear on September 1st, 1851, as a Monthly at 1s. 6d. The proprietor and publisher was Mr. Stirling, of the *Inquirer*. On October 1st, under the heading of "Local Literature," is this Notice:—"We have received the first number of the *Western Australian Magazine*. It is very well got up, and reflects credit upon all parties concerned—according to the Proprietors: 'To bring into light much bright and polished talent amongst us, that is only latent from not having any opening through which it may shine forth.' The public, naturally enough, were desirous of beholding the evolution of this hitherto latent talent."

The Address of the Magazine, oblivious of the existence of a local Press, declares that "now the public efforts of some members of Britain's family circle are manifesting themselves in a desire and endeavour to turn the minds of this infant population into that delightful and enlightening channel from which the thirst for learning and general information unfailingly springs forth," &c. The second number was pronounced "free from that presumptuous self-sufficiency which made that (former number) so objectionable."

The *Inquirer* may well rejoice in convictism supported by Great Britain in the colony, when the last number for 1851 had over five columns of Government Commissariat advertisements, in addition to other nine from the general Public. The Editor was sound upon the great advantages and minor inconveniences of convict immigration. The Western Australian Total Abstinence Society, however, found increased motive for exertion.

Hopes and fears of gold being found in the colony agitate correspondents. One, in March, 1852, exclaimed: "Find gold, in this colony! Oh, Sir, consider the consequences; find flyblows in your meat, moths in your blankets, white ants in your books, mould upon your jams and jellies, or any other dreadful thing, but not gold. If we find the yellow and sinful metal, we shall lose all the convicts."

The struggles of the Western Australian Press were then well nigh over. Better times were come, and the Printer's wrinkles relaxed into smiles. June showed sixty-eight advertisements, and December had ten more, several about a column each. The forthcoming *Inquirer's Book Almanack* was to contain upwards of seventy pages, for one shilling. The Paper was said to be regularly filed at the Jerusalem and other London Offices. The *Gazette* had as merry a tale to tell. Increased communication with Europe, and large Treasury expenditure, afforded ample supplies for the "get-up" and maintenance of the Colonial Press.

## EARLY STRUGGLES OF THE VICTORIAN PRESS.

THE period of Press struggle was, it may be said, confined to that in which the colony was known as the Port Phillip or Southern District of New South Wales. In the infancy of a settlement, when the few wanderers are struggling for a foothold and a home, the newspaper had its special trials and difficulties. Still, in the case of this colony, even after its emancipation from the supposed thralldom of Sydney rule, and its assumption of the proud name of *Victoria*, a recurrence of Press troubles arose from a very different state of things. When *Ballarat*, *Bendigo*, and *Golden Gully* were household words—when sudden wealth rushed upon the community—Press proprietors were well nigh at their wits' end. Trade was paralysed—advertisers and readers were absorbed with nuggets and gold dust—while compositors, machinists, and printers' devils were off to the Diggings. How to get out a Paper, how to pay typemen 2s. a thousand when they could be bribed to handle a *stick*, and how to fix excited eyes upon *Leaders*, may well have puzzled Press proprietors.

As in the early days, it was only by rigid economy and care that a Paper could be made to pay, and, with competitive organs, the survival of the fittest meant the ruin of the fallen; so, in the days of golden glory, one might tottering make a stand, when others sank to rise no more. It was not, however, by mere persistent energy, or brain force alone, but by length of purse, that the victor won the field, to enjoy both reputation and riches in the future.

Melbourne was peopled first from Tasmania. John Batman led the way, and others, like John Pascoe Fawcner, rushed forward to the banks of the Yarra Yarra. Flocks and herds streamed forth into the pastoral wilderness, while mechanics and storekeepers settled at the Port.

In the midst of the confusion of 1836 there was some thought of a local Press. This was associated with the name of Fawcner, who had just opened the first place for the sale of strong drink in the new land. A Hobart Town Paper, as soon as July 23rd, a year only after the opening visit of Batman to the Port Phillip shores, had this striking announcement: "We understand that Mr. Fawcner intends to commence a newspaper at this settlement."

He who had only landed at Port Phillip in October, 1835, had already hinted something to his Tasmanian editorial friend, Andrew Bent. Yet this was long before a single plot of land was sold there. Toward the close of 1837, however, the idea took shape. Unable to start with type, the resolute originator of the Launceston Press, in 1829, decided to make a beginning with a Manuscript Newspaper. The manuscript precedent was not unknown in the colonies.

The *South Australian Gazette and Register* on February 3rd, 1838, had this notice in allusion to the Melbourne effort: "Our neighbours are anxiously expecting a printing press; but, in the meantime, such is the demand for news, and a vehicle for advertisements, that *manuscript* is resorted to; and we have before us a neatly written foolscap sheet filled with advertisements and articles of news."

An account of Port Phillip, published in 1841, had this version: "A manuscript newspaper, conducted by a publican, enlightened the inhabitants as to their rights and necessities, without, however, any very laborious attention to the rules of either Lindley Murray or Johnson."

The rival *Port Phillip Gazette* of January 29th, 1840, had this reference: "That we put forth a just claim to the honour of having been the first journalist in Melbourne will not require three lines of argument. The Paper which has hitherto pirated the position issued only two or three unreadable numbers of a publication which was suppressed as illegal. It revived again many months after, but in the interim the *Port Phillip Gazette* had been established."

This, however, related to the appearance of Mr. Fawcner's printed issue, after nine manuscript numbers had been out, on March 5th, 1838, and which was stopped, as Mr. Westgarth observed, by "certain discouraging regulations." McCombie's "History of Victoria" says: "As Mr. Fawcner had not complied with the requirements (of the Press Act), the Police Magistrate interfered, and the publication was suppressed, much to the annoyance of the proprietor and the disappointment of the public."

Though the author of these sketches had the advantage of hearing the story from the lips of Mr. Fawcner, yet the worthy newsman gave an explanation in the *Patriot* of February 3rd, 1840, saying: "Upon the first day of January, 1838, we published a number of copies of a manuscript paper, no other, either written or printed, being extant at the time." He added, September 2nd, respecting his early printed issue, "which we were compelled by an Act of Council to suspend."

As he admitted advertisements, the publication was a newspaper, and that required heavy personal recognizances, and two sureties of £300 each, which the proprietor was not able to furnish, apart from the expense of going to Sydney to effect his object.

In 1859 the Author published, in "Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip," Mr. Archer's notice of the first manuscript number, the only surviving copy, then in the possession of the Colonial Secretary, Captain Lonsdale.

## THE

MELBOURNE ADVERTISER  
PORT PHILLIP AUSTRALIA

No 1 Written for and published by John P. Fawcner  
January The 1st Monday 1838 Melbourne

Vol 1st

We do opine that Melbourne cannot reasonably remain longer marked on the chart of advancing civilization without its Advertiser

Such being *our* imperial Fiat We do intend therefore by means of this *our* Advertiser to throw the resplendent light of Publicity upon all the affairs of this New Colony, Whether of Commerce, of Agriculture, or of the Arts and Mysteries of the Grazier, All these patent roads to wealth are thrown open to the adventurous Port Phillipians All these sources of riches are about to (or already are) become accessible to each adventurous Colonist of NOUS The future fortunes of the rising Melburnians will be much accelerated by the dissemination of intelligence consequent upon the Press being thrown open

here But until the arrival of the printing Materials we will by means of the Humble pen diffuse such intelligence as may be found expedient or as may arise . . .

The energies of the present population of this rapidly rising district have never been exceeded in any of the Colonies of Britain

Its giant like strides have filled with astonishment the minds of all the neighbouring states, The Sons of Britain languish when debarred the use of that mighty Engine the Press, A very small degree of Support timely afforded will establish a newspaper here, but until some further arrangements are made it will be merely an advertising sheet and will be given away to Householders

The  
Melbourne Advertiser  
Port Phillip Australia.

Written for, and Published by J<sup>r</sup>. P. Faulkner  
Monday, January the 8<sup>th</sup>. 1838. Melbourne.  
No 2 Price Sixpence. Vol 1.

For London direct

The fine fast sailing ship *Hartley's*  
Burthen 400 Tons will be ready to  
receive Wool early next month the  
greater part of her Cargo being  
engaged she will meet quick dispatch  
this vessel possesses very superior  
accommodation.

For Freight or passage

Apply to W. F. A. Rucker,  
Queen Street 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.

For Launceston

The fast sailing Cutter *Jemima* will  
leave for the above port on the 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 1838

Apply to W. F. A. Rucker

Geelong Trader

The well known Schooner *Lepwing*  
will sail regularly between the above  
Port and Melbourne leaving the latter  
place every tenth day.

For Freight or passage

Apply to the Master on Board or to  
W. F. A. Rucker, Queen Street.

Lost

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Decm last between Mel-  
bourn and the Ford of the Salt Water  
River, A Lady's handsome Gold Ear-  
Drop whoever will bring the lost  
Carring to the Office of this paper  
shall be handsomely rewarded.

Wanted

A good Serviceable Cart mare  
Apply at this Office 29 Decemb.  
1837

For Sale

Fit for Breeding or for the Butcher  
20 Choice Pigs. Enquire at  
Faulkners Hotel.

On Sale

250 Head of prime Cattle these were  
adapted for breeding being choice  
stock. A part are fit for the Supply  
daily required by the Butcher.  
Apply to John P. Faulkner  
January the 1<sup>st</sup> 1838.

Also

From one to 30 good useful Horses  
the greater number of these animals  
are quiet Saddle Horses and will  
Carry a Lady

Enquire at the Office of this Paper

### Notice

From 100 to 2000 feet of good Cedar  
at 6 pence per foot 20,000 Shingles  
at 2d per 1000 Window Sills of  
Seymour Stone and large size worked  
or rough 2000 5 feet split flooring  
for sale of F. D. Land or manufacture at  
12d per 100 they are ready for delivery  
orders on F. D. Land will be taken  
on payment of the above.

John P. Faulkner.

### Port Phillip Packet

This fine Fast sailing Cutter will  
be kept as a Regular Trader between  
this Port and Luncheon carries from  
30 to 40 Bales of Wool and is confidently  
expected to arrive at this Port on the  
10th instant

For particulars Enquire of  
Captain Sherr.

January the 11<sup>th</sup> 1838.

### On Sale

A quantity of Superior New  
Zealand Pine in Log and in floor  
ing Boards Apply to

M<sup>r</sup>. Horatio Cooper Melbourne  
or to M<sup>r</sup>. Hugh McLean.  
Williamstown.

The undersigned has for sale at his  
Shores the following goods to which  
he begs to call the attention of the  
Public

Flour - Tea - Sugar  
Tobacco Brazil and Negrohead  
Tobacco stems - Pork - Cheese and  
Potatoes - Rice - Oats - Catmeal - Spices  
Raisins - Clothing of every description  
Books - Book-keepers light and strong  
Wellington and Shoes - Gentlemen's  
Superior Riding Coats.

Wines - Port - Sherry - Claret  
Sicilian Red and White  
Cape &c. &c.

Spirits - Brandy - Rum and Gin in  
case - Highland Whisky - Scotch  
Ale and Porter - Burton and  
Dobbs in Shells and Barrels  
Sheep Wash Turpentine  
Limeed Oil Paints  
and Window Glass.

Continued over.

Mr. Ruckers has continued  
Timber of every description. Well  
seasoned from Hobart and Launceston  
New Zealand Pine

Woods, Bathing Shingles and Hard  
Shoemakers Ties and Steel Springs  
Leather - Sole, Kip and Kangaroo  
Saddlery, Whips and Spurs  
Spades and Shovels, Locks and Hinges  
Gunpowder and Shot, Ladys dress  
Shoes

### Hats

Best London Pleasers and Goswams  
(White and Black) Manilla Hats and  
Caps

Bragging, Woodpack, Needles and  
Civens &c as well as a variety of other  
articles too numerous for insertion  
Queen St  
W. F. A. Rucker.  
29 Decem.

Blacksmith and Farrier  
adjoining Fawcners Hotel.  
All work of the above branches  
performed quickly and neatly.

Horses shod each 0.7.0

Credit - 0.9.0

All other work in proportion

First established Hotel  
in Melbourne Fawcners Hotel applies  
to the Traveller and Sojourners all  
the usual requisites of a Boarding  
House and Hotel of the very best  
Quality being

mostly laid in from the first Australian  
House in Cornwall V. D. Land in  
addition to which there will be found  
mental recreation of a High order  
There are provided 7 English and 5  
Colonial Weekly Newspapers, several  
British Monthly, Magazines Three  
Quarterly, British Reviews up to July  
and August 1837.

A very choice selection of works  
including Novels, Poetry, Theology,  
History, Philosophy, Chemistry &c  
N. B. A large Encyclopedia The  
use of any of these works will be  
free to the Lodgers at the above  
Hotel.

J D Weatherly takes  
this early opportunity to inform his  
friends and the Public that he supplies  
Families with the best wheaten Bread  
at the lowest possible price and to  
those who wish it he allows one  
Months Credit.

### Poets, corner.

Oh what a pure and sweet thing  
Is beauty curtained from the sight  
Of the great world, illumining  
One only mansion with her light

2

Unseen by mans darkening eye  
The flower that blooms beneath the sun  
Too deep for sunbeams, doth not lie  
Hid in more shade of surety

*Particulars of the Murder of Constable Tomkins.*

The Postoffice, Cummerford having given information that one Dignall had murdered the Overseers between Port Phillip and Port Phillip Bay. The Gov in Chief Sir R. Bouverie sent Cummerford to P. P. to point out where this act had been perpetrated, in accordance with these orders W. Tomdale Esq. P. M. here sent Cummerford under charge of a Sergeant one Soldier and two Constables in the proposed direction Cummerford did guide this party to where he himself a Shoemaker (name unknown) and Dignall had as he stated murdered in cold blood and while sleeping six human beings. This party declared that they found from 1 to two Buckets of human bones contained some human teeth and also hair was found in barrel and a quantity of Scurvils and Buttons from the clothes of the murdered men. This was about 210 miles from Melbourne on the way there they fell in with and brought the bone of a Horses head said to be of Tomkins which was shot by Dignall and Cummerford on their way. Some one Constable and the Soldier turned back for some time left behind and the Sergeant, Tomkins and Prisoner came homewards they stopped to cook before these men returned and the Sergeant gave his market to Tomkins while he made a fire Tomkins it does appear culpably left the firearms and the Prisoner seized a musket and shot Tomkins so that he died within 3 hours. The ball it appeared entered his left side and came out at the right breast and cut diagonally across the right forearm to the bone. This cold blooded wretch plundered the packhorse and finally occupied himself pursued by the Sergeant for some time. This took place on the Saturday the 30 Dec on Stony Hill was taken by 3 of Mr W. Wedge's men after having plundered [here the writing is illegible] of a Double barrelled gun he wished to get a horse and a blanket.

The case of several of the principal features of the case that he was taken while trying to

get a horse. Cummerford is a light well built youth about 19 he has rather a prepossessing look and very well dressed small fine nose remarkably large upper lip the lower part is very small and the chin recedes towards the neck so as to make a very strange appearance when looked closely into.

He heard that the Theroians who presented at the House had mediated by the Royal Warrant will receive their Free and Unconditional Pardons for as is common with many of our fellow Colonists held that Innocence in such cases the best Provenance. We have omitted much for want of space.

Encls in No 1 For Cummerford read Cummerford

*Library - Faulkner's*

These of the subscribers to the above who had Credit when they favored this Establishment with their Support are most respectfully informed that it is usual to pay up all bills at the beginning of a

8 Jan'y 35 New Year.

J. P. Faulkner

*Shipping Intelligence*

On Thursday the 14th instant the Jamaica returned to Port having had an Anchorage reports the Boston and Tammamoo as Laying windbound at the Heads. Also the Mary Watson at Williamstown owing to the strong southerly gales. The Jamaica having raised an Anchor sailed again for Tammamoo. This morning the Cutter Industry from Robert Town. On Sunday the 17th arrived the Tanager Bowden from Linnceston Cargo 600 Sheep. Jackson she reports the Mary as about to sail for the port where she is having commenced taking notes sheep.

by this arrival came a Hobart Town paper  
Dated Augy. 2. 1835.

The mail per Enterprise Schooner will close at noon on Tuesday next. A wretch named Mooney has been committed for attempting to murder his wife she lies in a dangerous state.

The  
be pa  
Mr.  
inary  
" F  
Joloni  
parte  
Joloni  
On  
Melbo  
nchor  
nly &  
ent f  
const  
noun  
A  
type  
Demo  
art, v  
T  
adven  
Melb  
" the p  
ervi  
num  
cons  
with  
and  
cate  
reac  
Est  
he  
his  
sub  
(pri  
ser  
sch  
Est  
wt  
De  
ten  
sw  
ev  
cr  
P  
no  
is  
a  
t



The majority of advertisements have, of course, reference to the proprietor of the *Advertiser*. The patriarchal blacksmith has this significant addition to his notice:—

"A. Extra charge for credit.

Mr. Rucker has a long catalogue of articles on sale. Mr. Fawcner's celebrated notice of a library is the following:—

Launceston Prices for Cash

The first Established Hotel in Melbourne

"Fawcner's Hotel being in possession of a large and Well Selected Library of English and Colonial papers to a late date Offers at once Mental and Bodily refreshment unrivalled in this quarter of the globe Lodgers allowed the use of the Library Gratis, There are 7 English & 5 Colonial weekly papers & 7 monthly & 3 Quarterly Reviews from Britain."

On the second page we read: "Wanted by the Commercial World at Williams Town and Melbourne about 40 beacons, good Tea Tree stakes would answer, to mark the channel for the outer anchorage to this Town whoever will perform this service shall be entitled to *public thanks*." The only local is as follows: "Report has reached Melbourne that Cammerfield the Murderer who was sent from Sydney to point out where seven men were said to be murdered has killed the Two Constables and one of the Soldiers who had him in charge & is now at large in the Bush well mounted and armed. A party of Volunteers we learn are gone in pursuit."

After the issue of nine weekly manuscript numbers of the *Advertiser*, a small parcel of refuse type arrived from Launceston for the enterprising Editor. But where was the printer? "A Van Demonian youth of eighteen," who had some seven years before spent twelve months at the mystic art, was the honoured individual who first used the composing stick in Port Phillip.

The first printed number of the *Melbourne Advertiser*, Port Phillip, Australia, contains several advertisements of Mr. Fawcner's, one of Mr. Batman's store, &c. The Sandridge (or Port Melbourne) people will be interested in the following advertisement:—

"The Undersigned begs to inform the public, that he has a boat and two Men in readiness for the purpose of crossing & recrossing passengers between William's Town and the opposite beach.

"Parties from Melbourne are requested to raise a smoke, and the Boat will be at their service as soon as practicable, the least charge is five shillings and two shillings each when the number exceeds two.

"H. McLEAN."

The Leader is thus headed:—

"WE AIM TO LEAD NOT DRIVE.

"It is not our intention to make many professions—but it is now, and shall continue to be our constant study, to advance the interest of the Port Phillipians, to advocate their cause at all times with the powers that be, But not in the MOOD IMPERATIVE, we will point out our wants and as far as possible describe the easiest and best manner of satisfying them, we will carefully cater for English, Colonial, and Foreign Intelligence, and will add as much light and amusing reading as our limited space will allow."

"Melbourne, was a wild and as far as Europeans are concerned, Uninhabited, when the Establishment of the proprietor of this journal arrived here in August, 1835, it is his boast that he caused Melbourne to become colonised. Mr. J. Batman had arrived at P. P. in June, 1835, but his taste led him to select Indented Head, in June 1836. The few settlers then arrived, subscribed and built a small place of worship, which still serves both for the Established Church (prayers and sermon being read therein by a Layman,) and for the presbyterian, each having two services on the Sunday—a Sunday school, is also kept in the same, in which is also kept a day school. Large Subscriptions are now in progress to erect two separate Churches, one for each Establishment, and the present place of worship is to be reserved for a School.

"We earnestly beg the public to excuse this our first appearance in the absence of the compositor who was engaged. We were under the necessity of trusting our first number (in print) to a Van Demonian youth of eighteen, and this lad only worked at this business about a year, from his tenth to his eleventh, 1830 to 1831. Next the *honest* printer from whom the type was bought has swept up all his old waste letter and called it type, and we at present labor under many wants, we even have not so much as Pearl Ash to clean the dirty Type."

After the leader, we have the state of the weather, and the drowning of twenty-six cattle crossing the Yarra. Then comes a romantic Italian tale of love, murder, and beheading. The next paragraph concerns the 50th anniversary of the colony. The Melbourne Races and Hobart Town Quarter Sessions are duly reported. The English news is succeeded by an affecting poem upon a mother dying of grief at the tomb of her child. The European sketches are good. A capital review of Nichol's "Architecture of the Heavens" is copied on the fourth page. The Colonial Intelligence is crowded together in an odd form; little justice being done to the editor by the careless printer:—

"We glean from the *Colonial Times* of Feb. 6th the following—The leading article is a paltry attempt at wit, upon the Lieut. Governor's visit to Flinders's we ask what purpose can such balderdash effect. Why, it will disgust all sensible people—next SLANDER is deprecated, and this too by the Col. Times. The Editor rejoices over the pecunia likely to circulate from the five French Whalers and a Corvette now lying there, and advocates the advantage of a direct trade with France. VERY GOOD, then long extracts from English journals, Pickwick papers, &c. A long article about the eternal Dr. Lang.

"New Norfolk road making is next introduced, to have a hit at Capt. Cheyne. Then O'Brien's Bridge for the same reason.

"Chief Justice Dowling has decided that Puffers are illegal.

"Some other trifling matters, and there is a long Police Report of two columns, the remainder are advertisements, and shipping intelligence."

The printed *Advertiser* was about 12 inches long, containing four pages of two columns each. The arrangement will be seen orthodox in character, and certainly, in spite of the printer boy and *honest* type merchant, creditable in detail.

Mr. Westgarth has published MS. No. 8, and Mr. Whitehead of Melbourne brought out a capital *fac-simile* of No. 2, which is here reproduced in reduced form.

"THE PORT PHILLIP GAZETTE," (after Fawcner's "Advertiser").

The story of the first legalized paper in the Colony—The *Port Phillip Gazette*, is thus told in the author's *Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip (1850)*; as received from the lips of the worthy printer:—

"The proprietors were Messrs. George Arden and Thomas Strode. The first-named gentleman officiated as editor; the other, as printer and publisher. Both were residents of Sydney; and, entertaining similar views, united in the project. Mr. Arden was a young man, 19 years of age, of distinguished family, and of considerable literary qualifications. Mr. Strode had been overseer at the *Sydney Morning Herald* office.

"Without adequate means, the two friends began their enterprise. A quantity of old type, that had been lying *as pie* in a shed for many years, was purchased at two-pence a pound. A rickety wooden press was picked up, the stone of which had a gentle hollow in the centre, which materially interfered with the coming up of the type. The largest letters for advertisements, placards, &c., were only two-line ones. Rollers, also, were purchased.

"The vessel containing the first regular appliances of a printing establishment anchored in Hobson's Bay, October 19th, 1838. When Mr. Strode beheld the stumps of Melbourne, he declared his intention to return to Sydney; saying, that it was useless to establish a paper for black fellows and kangaroos. Two merchants, however, Messrs. Rucker and Hodgson, offered to give him such an amount of private work as to induce him to remain.

"The glorious mountain of disordered type was deposited on the floor of a newly-finished house in Queen Street, between Bourke Street and the present (?) Wesleyan Chapel of Collins Street. No friendly compositor was near to help our adventurer; not even a printer's devil. His worthy lady, like a good genius, came to the rescue. She could, at least, pick out a lot of b's and d's. But the type had to be cleaned; and where was the ley? After trying the ashes of various woods, the Shea-oak was found to be best for the purpose, and pronounced a stronger alkali than soda, which was then 1s. 6d. a pound. The whole was sorted in the cases, the press was fixed, the stone was smoothed.

"Now for the rollers. The composition on these was so hard that the very axe failed to make an impression. With a bold heart, Mr. Strode set about making new ones; but what was he to do for a cylinder, and not a tinsmith in the place? Mr. Strode must have been an enterprising printer. Among other shifts and experiments, he contrived to make a roller of India rubber; but the small quantity in town prevented him making one large enough for use. Eight years after, a London gentleman took out a patent for this discovery!

"While at this harassing employment, his friend was preparing his articles, sorting type, procuring advertisements, and obtaining subscribers. With eighty names they had in Sydney, they soon showed a list of 300 copies secured. The eventful day came. Notice had been given that on Saturday, October 27th, 1838, at 9 o'clock, the door would open, and the light pour forth upon the Colonists. The little Temple of the Muses was soon surrounded; and, in true English style, a battering attack began because the *Gazette* was not quite ready. Doors and windows had to be securely barricaded. At noon, the leaden images of thought had done their work, the crowd retired to read, and the poor unaided printer, entrusted with this wonderful fortnight's labour, retired to rest.

"Mr. Strode was the first Colonial illuminating printer. At a loss for large letter in the early days, he had to cut all above four-line letters; and, after many trials, he found seasoned New Zealand pine to stand the sun and water best for his cutting. Beset with difficulties in 1839, when contending against Mr. Fawcner's weekly *Patriot*, and the drunkenness and insubordination of his two workmen, he performed a very miracle of labour. For six weeks he contrived single-handed to bring out his bi-weekly issue, without dummies and without delay. The first finger was so inflamed with incessant picking up of type, that he had to employ the next finger; he allowed himself but two hours' sleep each night."

The printer, after the usual course of Colonial vicissitudes in the early times, was able to anchor comfortably in Melbourne during his latter days. Of Mr. Arden, whose literary productions are elsewhere noted, McCombie's *History of Victoria* calls him "a young man of considerable promise. He possessed natural abilities of a high order."

But, alas! his career was like that of many young men "of considerable promise." He was fond of company, which was always brightened by his brilliance. He was courted for his wit, and partook too freely of that cup that has darkened the intellect, and shortened the lives, of so many literary men in Australia, as in Europe. Unable to obtain regular employment, he subsequently drifted to the diggings, where he was found dead under painful circumstances.

Dr. Greeves, a medical man, succeeded Mr. Arden as editor, and was followed by Mr. McCombie, the historian. Mr. Boursiquot eventually purchased the *Gazette*. Already owning the *Daily News*, the successor of the original *Advertiser*, he disposed of both to the proprietors of the *Argus*, that thus grew strong by this diminution of press competition.

We now proceed to the paper itself; though only selecting the story of its first few years of struggle.

The *Port Phillip Gazette*, with a heading in German text, presented itself on Saturday, October 27th, 1838. Its four pages, of four columns each, were upon a paper 17½ inches by 10½, of poor quality. It was declared "edited, printed and published by George Arden and Thomas Strode (sole proprietors), Queen Street, Melbourne, Port Phillip." The subscription was ten shillings per quarter, single number one shilling. Advertisements, 3s. for six lines, and 3d. per line extra.

The motto of the paper was: "To assist the enquiring, animate the struggling, and sympathise with all." There were thirty-six advertisements in the first number, expected ones from Sydney not arriving in time. One was "Wanted immediately at the *Port Phillip Gazette* Office, a compositor, also a lad as an apprentice." Among well-known men as advertisers were Messrs. John Hodgson, John Batman, P. W. Welsh, S. Craig, and W. F. A. Rucker. The "Fire-Fly" steamer, running between Williamstown and Melbourne, occupied the first space of the paper. It was the first steam vessel on the Yarra Yarra.

From the prospectus the following is extracted:—

"The want of a newspaper as a general Commercial Advertiser, has been for a long time felt as a serious evil in so flourishing and populous a settlement as that of Melbourne; it is, by our present undertaking, that we propose to supply so great a desideratum. We hope the typographical arrangement, and the duty and services of the editor, may also be performed to the utmost satisfaction of those whom it is our chief desire to benefit."

The Prospectus proper was, without a new heading, followed by an Editorial: "In bringing out the first number of our journal, we beg leave to direct the attention of our readers to the Prospectus of this Paper in the preceding column.

"We have there stated our inducements to enter upon a field of labour. Of all others, the most ungrateful, for with the totally different thoughts, opinions and tastes of those members that form the society (we use the term in a general sense) of a district or town, it is impossible to agree—with some we must clash—with others, tacitly disagree—with few, very few, concur,—yet if the avoidance of personal remarks, and the impertinent scrutiny of individual character—a quiet and gentle manly tone, and an unwearied attention to the general interest and welfare of our fellow citizens, can in any way increase the cordiality of our relative and respective feelings,—we trust to be popular—politics, elsewhere the great theme of contention, particularly wherever a press has room to exert its influence, will in this instance be held in abeyance; the yet comparatively infant state of our settlement affords us fair reason to withhold our direct interference or comments upon a subject so rife with quietude; with those of other and distant territories, what have we in our industrious, painstaking, and money-making town to do?

"If, indeed, the mandates of a Home Government, or the acts of a nearer Legislative Council, directly and determinately affect the well-being of our rising community, let us calmly and rationally discuss the question, with a view to discover its justice, not bring to light and heap with abuse its petty defects, for we feel persuaded it is this, which is the chief cause of all the bickering between our authorities and their dependants; when influenced by such unprejudiced motives, should we be unable to discover the good, we can, with indisputable right, point out and decry the evil.

"In the event of the support we look forward to, enabling us to progress in space and material with the rapid growth of our prospering town—when at some future period we shall possess a Lieutenant-Governor of our own—when the Acts of a Council and the affairs of our immediate Government, shall create a system of local politics, then, as we feel it will be expected of us, we will enter on a wider sphere of action.

"Two years have scarcely elapsed since the site of Melbourne was a wilderness, the echo of its woods answering only to the shrill *coo-ee* of the savage, or the long wild howl of its native dogs; now the sounds of a busy population, the noise of the hammer and saw know scarce a moment's cessation, the ground has been cleared, and houses, like mushrooms, are every day springing up. We have noticed (not once) buildings run up during the night where the day previous was a void; this speaks for the industry of its labouring classes, we mean those usually classed under the denomination of artisans, who borrow from the hours of rest to effect that which others look to in the day. We trust to see this an agricultural country; everything ought to be done, every inducement held out, every facility afforded to the class of small farmers.

"A press of other matters obliges us to break off in this so interesting a subject, but we trust on our next day of publication to be able to carry out the fast increasing chain of events that thicken round us, as we contemplate the rise and establishment of this 'City of the Settlers.'

Congratulations are offered to the colonists of South Australia for their flattering prospects, but it is added:—

"It is our enterprise that has opened the road of communication to them, which will shortly prove of the utmost benefit to the whole of South Australia. They have, however, one advantage over us in their already fast-increasing trade from England direct."

Sydney and Van Diemen's Land news follow. The account of a public meeting in Melbourne was communicated. This was held at the "Lamb Inn," October 3rd, on the question of the hiring of servants on stations, the stock increasing beyond the supply of ordinary farm hands. A memorial on the subject was sent to the Governor. English news took up a column.

Under the head of "Domestic Intelligence," various wants of the settlement are expressed, especially the one of postal conveyance and delivery. The editor thought that, with good relays of horses, five days should bring news from Yass to Melbourne. The arrival of the "Denmark Hill" is recorded. She brought down from Sydney the steamer "Fire Fly," and the first Church of England minister, Mr. Grylls; and she, it is said, "has had the extreme honour of bringing hither the proprietors and materials of this establishment."

A search was then being made for Mitchell's "Australia Felix." Some doubted its existence, others supposed it north of Mount Macedon. A Mr. Walker declared he had gone a day's journey into it, but the reporter of the Paper said: "The mystery that hung around it was increased by the report of an oath having been administered to Mr. Stapleton, the attendant Surveyor, never to reveal its true site, and that the discoverer himself (Mitchell) had gone to England to obtain a grant of either the whole or some extensive portion of it."

A meeting of the Port Phillip Temperance Society was to take place in the Scots Church. Land, eighty-seven feet deep with sixty-six feet frontage to Bourke Street, had just sold for £108! The gaol, twelve feet by twelve, had had its wall pierced by a piece of iron hoop, or a pocket knife, to allow a rogue to escape in the night, as he did not admire the confined space.

One is somewhat disappointed in this first number having no reference to Mr. Fawcner's modest manuscript newspaper, the forerunner of the Port Phillip Press. Making all allowance for the party feeling, even then so early imported into the new settlement, it did seem that ordinary courtesy demanded a recognition, if not praise, of that honourable attempt. But the masses, particularly the working men from Van Diemen's Land, were championed by Mr. Fawcner, when the classes, represented by shopkeepers and shepherds, looked up to the *Gazette* for support.

The second number had nearly two columns devoted to a temperance meeting. The ladies were treated with the fashions for June. Work in the Legislative Council was recorded. Two extended leaders were well written. The police state of Melbourne was thus noted by a correspondent:—

"The town of Melbourne is now half a mile in length, the houses at intervals extending over the whole of that space; the habitations at a rough guess are three hundred and fifty, the population one thousand, including children under twelve years of age, and, for the protection of the inhabitants and their property, there are, I believe, only four constables. How they divide their watches I do not know."

The want of labour called forth this remark: "If we were to make known our wants and necessities, we should be sure of an influx of masons, and carpenters, and builders, of hewers of wood and drawers of water, and all manner of workmen, from that beggarly place, Sydney, where we cannot for the life of us make out how any person possessed of common sense can reside."

Articles upon the aborigines were common, because of the war of races. The cry was raised:

"Wanted immediately, for the town of Melbourne and district of Port Phillip, a Court of Requests." The exports for 1837 were announced as £8,994, but the imports were £115,279. The advertisements for November 17th were fifty-four, and sixty-one the week after. Flour was then £36 a ton. A wall was proposed to be built upon the stones at the Falls, so as to prevent the ascent of tidal salt water at Melbourne. There were sixty-three advertisements on December 29th, and sixty on January 5th, 1839. Both the compositor and the apprentice were still demanded by the worn-out printer. There was an earnest trust that "our humble efforts will be required by the public in bringing to an early settlement the trifling balance in our favour." The editor is very explicit upon the urgent need of labour in Melbourne and the district. The solicitude of a Tuscaloosa printer is cited as a hint to Melbourne subscribers:—

"It is no use to honey the matter, payments must be made at least once a quarter, or else I shall run down at the heel. Everybody says, 'How well that newspaper is getting on in the settlement,' when the fact is I have not positively change enough to buy myself a shirt or a pair of breeches. My wife is now actually engaged in turning an old pair wrong side out. Come, come! pay up, pay up, friends! Keep peace in the family, and enable me to wear my breeches right side out."

It was on February 2nd, 1839, that Mr. John Pascoe Fawcner announced in the *Gazette* his forthcoming *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser*. Of course, no notice was taken by the *Gazette* of this advertisement. But that prospectus clearly foreshadowed coming antagonism between the Papers, as Mr. Fawcner assured the editors of the *Gazette* that he had no intention of acting as they were—holding politics in abeyance. He certainly took prompt means to prove that he had decided views, and would express them decidedly.

Setting out with a promise of holding politics in abeyance, the *Gazette* came out with these words on February 9th: "No human ingenuity could devise a plan better adapted to retard, nay crush, the springing energies and resources of this place, than the measures which have been uniformly pursued by the Government with regard to Melbourne. Is this a fair return for the £35,000 which were in one day levied by the Crown on the sale of their lands? The present Governor was directed from the Colonial Office to allot such portion of the revenue to the service of Port Phillip as the Council should deem necessary. The paltry sum of £15,000, one-half of which is met by the duties raised in the town, has been awarded to us."

The proprietors had this hint for the public: "No offence whatever taken by Arden and Strode if those persons who are indebted to the firm would call at the *Gazette* office to liquidate their unpaid accounts." In large type they addressed printers: "Wanted, at the *Port Phillip Gazette* office, a COMPOSITOR. If a good hand, and can work at press, fifty shillings a week will be given, and one shilling per hour for overtime."

Advertisements on April 6 were sixty-one in number. One was an appeal to defaulting subscribers from the *Gazette* to "enable us to proceed in our undertaking with increased vigour and on a more extended scale." After a three months' advertisement for the good compositor, it still failed to find the man. May 15th had but seventeen advertisements.

On May 4th, 1839, the *Gazette* began its series of leaders on "Independence of Australia Felix." Declaring that the editors had been obliged, against their original intentions, to notice and reprove official shortcomings, and to be led on from gentle reproof to severe censure, they appeal thus to the offenders: "What pleasure do they suppose we can derive in writing articles that destroy that serenity, so needful to the health of both body and mind!"

John Batman's death, on May 6th, at the age of thirty-nine, is attributed to violent cold working on mercury previously dormant in his physical system. He left a numerous family, and, "unfortunately for them," it is said, "his affairs are not in a settled state."

The Melbourne Roman Catholics, expecting to have a priest sent down to them, wished to get up a Church, and in May appealed for support to "their Protestant and Christian Brethren." Declaring their poverty and loyalty, they said: "We, therefore, call upon you in the name of our Country and Religion. We will exert ourselves according to our means, and confidently hope for the support of you, our Protestant and Christian fellow citizens."

The Rev. P. B. Geoghegan, the first Melbourne Catholic clergyman, issued on May 29th, an address to the Port Phillip members of his Church in the form of an advertisement. Mr. James Smith, the only acting Church of England lay preacher, was then advertising a meeting of subscribers for an intended Church; all who had paid a pound could vote in electing trustees. It was asked why the Wesleyans had no ministers at Melbourne? The two proprietors of the Paper, like some other Protestants, subscribed £5 toward the erection of the Roman Catholic wooden church.

Complaint was made of the coming of Mr. Latrobe instead of Colonel Snodgrass, as ruler of Port Phillip, the latter having had colonial experience. It was said that Mr. Latrobe was coming as Resident or Civil Commandant, and that was regarded as the first step to the independence of the District.

This was the allusion to a Launceston paper: "The very friendly style in which the editor of the *Cornwall Chronicle* speaks of our young and struggling colony, induces us to return him the thanks of the Public for the good will he has at all times displayed, so different to the petty jealousy or the more insidious silence which mark the pages of some of our contemporaries, both in Van Diemen's Land and Sydney."

The Printer, week after week, addressed parents and guardians in Sydney, Van Diemen's Land, and Port Phillip, on his want "of an active youth as an apprentice at the *Port Phillip Gazette* Office, where the same advantages will be afforded of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business as in a London Office. No premium required—wages will be given." And yet no applicant presented himself. No compositor being ready to relieve Mr. Strode, the Printer, another appeal was made in August: "Steerage passages will be allowed from Sydney or Van Diemen's Land, and a twelve months' engagement guaranteed to the first two compositors who offer their services."

The Melbourne Printer's trouble appears in his Notice to Advertisers, August 14th, 1839: "We regret exceedingly, that the length of the Government advertisements of the Suburban Allotments at Geelong, precluded the possibility of its insertion in this morning's publication; but when it is taken into consideration that the *whole* of the mechanical part of this journal, which is published twice a week, at present devolves on one individual, the announcement of the fact will be deemed a sufficient apology." Mr. Strode has told the writer the story of his physical sufferings at that period, when so much of the ordinary printer's work fell to his share.

Some poor comfort was realized by the *Gazette* in the publication of an American valedictory address to subscribers: "Of all trades, professions or callings, I know of none (I have followed a great many) so poorly paid as publishers of newspapers. Many patrons of newspapers, otherwise

worthy, punctual men, think it not unrighteous to let the publisher wait, year after year, for his dues, and at last, if he is compelled to pay, he does it with a bad grace. It is thus with all newspaper offices; and why? because publishers are good natured. You had better keep your ink and paper than furnish them, and your labour for nothing. You may get popularity, but you will get no pork and cabbage for your dinner." His parting advice was: "Live honestly, love God, and pay for your newspapers."

One more trouble was noted, August 24th: "Apology. The Public, aware of the great attention which the publisher of the *Gazette* has always evinced in the conduct of his department, must have been as much surprised as ourselves at the unusual appearance which last Wednesday's number presented; the truth is, that Mr. Strode had engaged a strange man as Pressman, who, although he declared he had been in the trade for some years, evidently proved by his handiwork that he was unfit for his business. Mr. S., after having been engaged all night in the fatiguing duty of superintending the publication, retired at an early hour in the morning, and left the new hand to complete the work he had so far prepared: the result has been most annoying to us, but will never, our advertising friends may rest assured, occur again."

The Map of Australia Felix, by Clint of Sydney, had just appeared, as well as a Map of Melbourne by Williamson. The available seats in churches was thus given in September: Roman Catholic, 400; Presbyterian, 200; Wesleyan, 150; Independent, 100; but Episcopalian, only 90.

On September 7th, 1839 six pages were afforded. This was according to the following previous Notice, still worthy of the observance of some papers: "The press of Advertisements, while it remains a clear indication of the activity of trade, and the healthy state of the country in its commercial relations, deprives the numerous readers of the *Gazette* of a pleasure they can only obtain from the perusal of a local paper. As the only Journalist in Australia Felix, it would be unbecoming in us, by taking advantage of this circumstance, to remain in idle repose, when so many points of interest, both at home and abroad, offer themselves for the exercise of our industry and perception, a Supplement will therefore be circulated to our town subscribers this evening." There were seventeen columns of advertisements out of the twenty-four. The following week these took fifteen columns out of the sixteen, no Supplement coming to the rescue, though succeeding by the next issue.

Success brought competition, as the Publisher said, September 14th: "It is with feelings of the deepest regret—the most heartfelt sorrow—that we come forward to announce the death-knell of the *Gazette*. Long have we struggled to preserve a firm independence among the warring elements of our political career, but we have braved the torrent only to be overwhelmed in the yeast of its waves. The GENTLEMEN of Melbourne, the elite of her aristocracy, the WEALTH, TALENT and RESPECTABILITY of the town, have determined at last to 'get up' a joint-stock jobbing vehicle of fictitious sales, lying advertisements, and partial price currents, wherewith to rule the markets to their own uses, and to crush (the chief object) the unflinching expositions of the independent Press."

In the following issue, the Editor wrote: "Having with great grief of mind and tribulation of spirit, acknowledged the dread we entertained of the conspiracy of the merchants of Melbourne, headed by our quondam 'protégés,' McCrae and Welsh, to swamp our independent efforts, we now present ourselves with a feeling of delight equal to our 'umquhile' sorrow, to declare our intention of pursuing our labours. In resuming our position, 'We, the Boy Editor of the *Gazette*,' beg to inform any of the clique, that having silenced their doughty champion, we are now at leisure to bestow a similar degree of castigation upon any party who may be foolhardy enough to place himself within reach of our lash."

An auctioneer, advertising the re-sale of the corner allotment at King and Flinders Streets, exclaims: "The scenery around is such as the most unenlightened mind could not look on with apathy. In the distance may be seen the darkly timber-clothed tops of the Black Mountain, and as the eye draws near its home, the beautiful waters of the Yarra Yarra meandering in its sinuous course, and at last the wonderful township of Melbourne bursts on the view, looking down in frowning majesty on this delightful river." What a pity land agents in the late "Land boom" had not studied this style of eloquence!

We are informed that Mr. Fawkner's allotment, bought for £40, sold for £1,100; that another person got £462 for what had cost £200 a month before; and that Mr. Hightett realised on a lot one hundred per cent. profit in six weeks. In two years, three allotments in Collins Street brought £10,224, though costing originally £50 each. The auctioneer, in September, announced a grand lottery of 400 tickets at £20 each, the prizes being four grand frontages to Collins Street, and 400 head of prime cattle.

Money being urgently demanded by the Proprietors, a notice was issued. In that we are told: "The expense of this establishment in office rent, paper, ink and other materials, employment of compositors, clerk and messengers, amounts, at the smallest calculation, to thirty-three pounds per week." It was determined by the Proprietors that "upon sending in their bills, a period of six days shall be allowed wherein to make payment or settlement; that ten per cent. discount shall be allowed on all bills above £10 if paid within the allotted six days; beyond that time ten per cent. interest will be charged upon the whole amount. At the expiration of thirty days after the bills have been presented, all unpaid accounts will be handed over to their solicitor for recovery."

They plead their services and sufferings; adding: "They have individually shared the labours of editing, printing, and publishing between them (the duties attached to the latter office demanding continued exertions through two nights in the week), an arrangement which has been attended with additional fatigue but considerable economy." They affirm their advertising charges were under those of Adelaide, and on a par with those of Van Diemen's Land. Well, then, may they call attention to punctual settlement of accounts.

A hint to a possible rival is given October 23rd:—"We have heard that a gentleman, who has been for some time connected with the Press in Van Diemen's Land, has been advised by a party, friendly to his interests here, to undertake the conduct of a journal at Port Phillip. The speculation is one which will be attended with much risk and mental anxiety. We are not desirous, however, of throwing difficulties in the way—we have long sincerely wished to have a talented and RESPECTABLE coadjutor in the field,—we have found it a hard task to support singly the social, commercial, agricultural and political advancement of Australia Felix. From the friendly aid or courteous opposition of a contemporary, who combines in himself the character of a gentleman and scholar, we may receive encouragement or learn correction. We may find food for pertinent observation or enlightened views. We look forward, therefore, with sincere pleasure to his arrival at Melbourne; especially as we have learned that the difficulty and expense, which we at first

experienced, in acquiring a suitable building; the service of compositors, a regular supply of paper and ink, clerk, messengers, &c., will be smoothed down by the pecuniary assistance of several of his friends. Anything we can do to forward our expected contemporary views will be cheerfully granted."

In that issue, occurs the following notice:—"Died, in the most sudden and unexpected manner, on Thursday last, Mr. Henry Batman, a brother of the late Mr. John Batman, the Founder of this Infant Colony."

The Paper for October simply contained advertisements. The reading matter, so-called, occupying about two-thirds of a column in the fragment of a supplement. The ninety-seven advertisements included two long ones from Government offices. In the next *Gazette*, there were two and a half columns of news out of the sixteen printed.

Moral questions are stirred by the Editor's statement, November 20th.—"In consequence of some of our compositors being absent,—DRUNK! the supplement will not be published till noon to-day." That supplement led off with this advertisement:—"The Proprietors of the *Gazette* having been lately insulted by the attempts of—, of Launceston, in seducing their hired compositors from their lawful service, hereby give notice to all Master Printers of Sydney and Van Diemen's Land, and especially to the said—, that if any of their hired compositors or pressmen are found in the employment of other parties, the said parties will be liable to action at the hands of Arden & Strode."

The imprint now read:—"Edited by George Arden, of Elizabeth Street; Printed and Published by Thomas Strode, of Little Collins Street (joint proprietors), at the *Gazette* Printing Office, in Queen Street, Melbourne, Port Phillip." The office was removed in December to Collins Street, two doors East of Queen Street.

A home Paper is copied in the report, that a Printer of Clermont, named Colson, had taken out a Patent for a new material of printing types, harder than the composition of lead and antimony, lasting ten times as long as the old material.

Again, December 7th, did advertisements crowd out "the leading article, domestic intelligence, and a mass of interesting news from the Sister Colonies, mass in type." A supplement is promised the next number, to supply all deficiencies. Space is now demanded for the increase of Press Reporters at the Police and Sessions Courts, owing "to the rivalry of the press at Melbourne."

The prospect of the *Herald's* rivalry brought out the *Gazette* of December 18th, in this fashion:—"The Proprietors of the *Gazette* feel highly gratified in being able to announce to their supporters that the *Port Phillip Gazette* will, upon and after the 1st of January next, be issued twice a week, of an enlarged size and improved appearance." Advertisers, however, were told that if they came after six o'clock, they must pay a penny extra per line.

It was considered noteworthy, at the end of 1839, to state that, from Melbourne port:—"The first live stock was introduced into the waste pastures of New Zealand." In January of 1840, we read:—"A new town has sprung up beyond that part which lies eastward of Swanston Street. The hill in that direction is thickly studded with tents." It is further said: "The number of visitors is almost as large as the permanent residents."

As the *Gazette* did not come out enlarged according to promise, this Notice appeared on January 8th, 1840:—"While the Proprietors of the *Gazette* cannot but regret that, at the present moment their long-favoured and well-supported journal should, from the wretched substance of its material, present so faulty an appearance, they, nevertheless, congratulate themselves that the exertions of Mr. Strode in Van Diemen's Land, although attended with great sacrifice, both of time and means, will enable them to enlarge their paper to a size, and in a style, superior to anything yet produced in Melbourne." It is added, that "paper of any quality is unobtainable in either of the Colonies."

The issue of January 25th had the usual sixteen columns, with four others of a supplement; yet a happy announcement was then made: "*Deo Volente*, we shall be enabled to present to our readers, subscribers, and advertisers with the next number of the *Port Phillip Gazette* of an enlarged size, upon which occasion we shall issue directions for a copy to be left at every tenement in the town."

January 29th, presented four pages of five columns, a gain of four on the sixteen. It was not till July 14th, 1841, that the *Gazette* advanced in page size to 23½ inches by 17, four pages of seven columns each, twenty-eight columns for the old sixteen. The heading continued "Port Phillip Gazette," in large German text, till November 27th, 1841, when a small type of that character gave a neater appearance. The royal arms above the name, gave a tasteful finish. The motto was still,— "To assist the enquiring, animate the struggling, and sympathise with all."

Arden and Strode continued connected with the Paper till July 24th, 1841, when George Arden, of Collins Street, is named sole proprietor, in consequence of a dissolution of partnership. There was no other change in the Paper, which was issued on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Commenting upon the first enlargement in January, 1840, from sixteen to twenty columns, the Editor hopes for his *Gazette*, "a fresh lease on the freehold of public opinion," and trusts that its growth "will be presumptive evidence of the progress of Melbourne." He will be no longer ashamed of forwarding a copy to London, though he remarked: "This proceeding, which courtesy directs, has been hitherto a source of secret amusement to ourselves: not seldom have we pictured to our mind's eye the Editor of the *Thunderer (Times)*, spreading out our little journal in the centre of his own broad sheet, where its position must have appeared a barren island amid a sea of intelligence, whose waters teemed with the elemental agitations of a moral world."

His leader on the Press of Melbourne observes: "It was, we confess, with some diffidence that eighteen months back we ventured to take a place among the agents calculated to forward the interests of the colony; we were alone and unsupported in a country whose advantages and resources were unknown in England, and but little appreciated in the neighbouring colonies." Mindful of the claim set up by Mr. J. P. Fawcner, of being the father of the Melbourne Press, the Editor has this note: "That we put forth a just claim to the honour of having been the first journalist in Melbourne will not require three lines of argument. The Paper which has hitherto pirated the position, issued only two or three unreadable numbers of a publication, which, besides its glaring absurdity and contemptible character, was suppressed as *illegal*. It revived again many months after, but in the interim the *Port Phillip Gazette* had been established."

The courtesy of the Editor was not very much manifested in this hint to the rival *Port Phillip Herald*, in February, 1840: "In running our eye across the *Port Phillip Herald*, we lit upon an editorial comment attached to the rejection of some fictitious correspondent's letter. To avoid anything like future trouble upon this score, we just mention to this demented writer, that if we have by sufferance hitherto allowed his Paper to exist, such condescension on our part is no excuse for

his impertinence—that the next time we catch him moving out of the orbit which his commonly decent abilities assigned to him, we will, without compunction, set him with his face to a donkey's tail, and, adorning his head with one of his own witless productions, in the shape of a fool's cap, exhibit him to the town in his true character."

Postal progress was chronicled in an advertisement, that "On Friday, the sixth of March, 1840, and every succeeding Friday, a mail will be dispatched from the Post Office, Melbourne, to Geelong, at six a.m., and will return on Sunday at six o'clock p.m." Letters for Melbourne from Europe still went on to Sydney, charged extra with 15d. overland postage. Melbourne had been a month without news from Van Diemen's Land.

The Editor's treatment of his contemporaries was peculiar. Of the *Herald* he said: "A production so thoroughly imbued with the low impertinence of a vulgar mind, places its author without the pale of well-bred recognition." Of Mr. Fawcner's Paper, he wrote: "We have to acknowledge the receipt of the 80th number of the *Port Phillip Patriot*. Upon perusal, we found that Mr. J. P. Fawcner, late editor and publisher, still retains his name in the imprint as Proprietor only. Upon his retirement from the seat which he has for some time filled among the guardians for the public weal, we would think it unbecoming the character of a Christian, were we to avoid informing him of the total oblivion on our part of all past ill-feeling, and of our desire for his happiness in the ranks of private life. To his successors, Mr. Smith (Editor) and Mr. Watkins (Publisher), we beg to offer the compliments of a friendly contemporary." It was certainly rough to print, "George Cavenagh, the venal editor of the *Herald*, formerly milkman in Sydney;" but such were the Press courtesies of early Colonial days.

The advance of *Gazette* affairs was thus pictured, July 1840: "I want a pair of boots," chimed in the printer's devil, as he laid the proofs before us for perusal. "My *boots*," said he, with a smile of the most deep, satanic amiability, "are worn out in distributing papers. Eighty-one new subscribers this last quarter. Myself and two messengers in my *tail* are not sufficient to distribute the *Gazette* of a morning."

In November, 1840, considerable stir arose about a find at Western Port of coal, reputed something between Cannel and Wallend varieties. Mr. Arden's pamphlet on the colony is noticed in the *Gazette* of December 5th, by Mr. J. Stephen, assistant editor. In that issue, Dr. Lhotsky, of Hobart and Sydney, is styled "that arch impostor." A perilous undertaking was then to be attempted—an overland trip with horses to Western Port. An apprentice is still enquired for at the office, no premium asked, but good wages given. The reputed skeletons of Messrs. Gellibrand and Hesse were taken from Port Phillip to Hobart in December.

A January Paper of 1841 records Mr. J. P. Smith's retirement from the editorship of the *Patriot* and the succession of Mr. Kerr, at the same time. Mr. James Rennie became Editor of the *Sydney Herald*. There was a New Year's Article, with, "The Press all over the world seems ever foremost in cherishing this ancient right;" yet it is added, "We give to those only who are prepared to support us, 'A Happy New Year.'" The *Sydney Colonist* reported that it was contemplated to start another Paper in Geelong. Mr. Kerr had formerly been on the *Colonist* as well as on the *Sydney Gazette*. Praise was properly accorded to "Kerr's Almanac and Directory." A caution was then given "against purchasing copies of the *Port Phillip Gazette* from any of the News Runners." So many Papers miscarried through the negligence of captains or the post, that the *Gazette* said, "To keep a regular file of the journals, published in the colonies we find to be totally impracticable, from the uncertainty of their arrival."

In March, 1841, was published at this office, by Arden and Strode, the original petition for a locally responsible Government, &c., with remarks by the editor. April 24th has a leader, headed "An Editor's Confession," which thus commences: "There's a title we have coined to catch the reader's attention, a title pregnant with concealed plots, anonymous assassins, disappointed applications, literary revenges, and suppressed merits. Were an editor going to the block to make a confession, we imagine it would create a slight sensation in Melbourne."

The projectors of a scheme to start a gratis advertising sheet was, of course, severely condemned on self protective principles. The trading adventurers in the typographic trade are reminded of previous failures, in "the fate of the *Australian*, at Sydney, the *Horn Boy* and *Trumpeter* at Van Diemen's Land, all of which started into existence with a view to depress the imaginary high profits of the Press." They are warned of "the dangerous and impolitic attempt to interrupt and interfere with the proceedings of the Press, as established by Colonial usage in the department of advertisements. What would the merchants and auctioneers say, if the newspaper proprietors were to form a company for the disposal of property by auction at one per cent., and private sales at five per cent. on the original and genuine invoice price."

On May 29th, 1841, the Editor intimates that "a printing press of the largest size and most scientific construction has been shipped to their order at Sydney;" that, consequently, the *Gazette* will be "enlarged to a size equal to the Sydney journals." A foretaste came in the enlarged page of a supplement to June 12th, though not followed up till July 14th when the change was thus heralded: "To-day the *Gazette* appears in an enlarged form, the largest that it can well acquire during any period of its future existence, except by a multiplication of sheets. The proprietors did not despair of attaining the aid of steam machinery, should we remain connected with the newspaper Press for any term of years." The *Gazette* was now to be regarded as "the Paper of Melbourne." It is then announced, "We will make the *Gazette* everything to everybody." There were 147 advertisements in that number. Much space was devoted to mercantile and marine matters.

Complaints having been made of the style in which the *Gazette* made its appearance, the smart Editor had an Appeal to the Public, in which he says: "We have directed that it should be explained to those unhappy grumblers, that two barbarian merchants, living in the great town of Melbourne, near the mouth of the 'flowing, flowing river,' had been directed to send for various invoices of the materials known as 'paper,' printing machines, and 'types,' but, through a stupidity which demands the severest reprehension, took no proper measures to secure their early and correct transmission. The names of which two merchants are Arthur Willis and P. W. Welch, commonly called 'Lloyd's Agents' and the 'Iron-headed Old Rat.' These supplies will early arrive." A postman was mentioned on August 18th as having been appointed for the purpose of delivering letters twice a day in Melbourne. An advertisement spoke of the appearance, in shilling monthly parts, of "The Loves of his Childhood," by Peter Snodgrass, B.B. In the Paper of August 25th, 15 columns of the 28 were occupied with a trial. In that month there is a notice of the new Paper:—

"The *Free Press*, although started with considerable spirit, and deserving success, is evidently fast failing. It appears to have been badly arranged in every department, printing, editorial, and

financial. There is no guiding mind, each department seems to drag on badly with the other, the Editor pays little or no attention, the printing is all behind, and the advertisements will never pay expenses. It was a bad time to commence, the local competition was very great, three Papers were quite sufficient for the town, and money coming in far too slow to support expenses."

The Melbourne rival, the *Herald*, is not kindly mentioned in a September *Gazette*, saying: "As often as the *Herald* appears, so often do the readers see a great staring sheet of paper, in which the white spaces are treble in proportion to the letterpress, and the margin is about three inches each way. — may shortly announce its own funeral oration, previous to extinction."

A capital story by Mr. Latrobe, called "The Romance of Real Life, Tecumseh," illustrating Indian history in 1812, appeared in the *Gazette* of September. More stringent measures were then adopted by the Paper as to advertisements. Only a subscriber could escape without cash payment. An advanced charge was to be made for displayed notices; and "all correspondence directed to the Editor, having reference to private affairs, will be inserted and charged as advertisements." Some modest self-commendations were added, as: "We may confidently appeal to the style, to matter, and the arrangements of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, as unexceptionable. The *Port Phillip Gazette* is the only Paper in the colonies that has mastered the introductory trouble of reducing its literary contents to an organized and unchanging system of arrangement." It is then stated that the present expenses of the office were £50 weekly, that upon the dissolution of partnership between Arden and Strode the debts were £2,500, and that £1,500 were then found to be irrecoverable. A leader, therefore, pressed anxiously for future prompt payments.

Mr. Arden got into trouble for libel on Judge Willis, and the trial took place before that gentleman in October. He denied a knowledge of the writer of the letter. He was, as the reporter said, "authoritatively and unconstitutionally denied a hearing in his own defence, and ordered to find sureties." The evident animus of Judge Willis against the Editor originated a Petition to the Governor for the recall of that official. The *Gazette* of October 6th had Mr. Arden's "Deed of Gift," saying: "Know all men by these presents, that I, George Arden, Proprietor of the *Port Phillip Gazette* Newspaper and printing establishment, Melbourne, considering that the liabilities in which I have been bound at the instance of one John Walpole Willis, to be of good behaviour for the space of twelve months towards all her Majesty's subjects, is totally incompatible with the free and open administration of the privileges and duties of a public Press, do make over the whole of my right and interest in such Paper, to my brother Alfred, of the Darebin Creek, Settler, unconditionally, to be used and disposed of as by him may seem fit, subject only to such debts and incumbrances as may have been incurred by me as Proprietor of the said estate and business, or that may be recorded against me in any Court of Law or Equity, trusting only to his brotherly affection and esteem to return the said property to me whensoever I may be relieved from the said liabilities."

The Sydney *Free Press* stated the sureties to be £400 by Mr. Arden and two others of £200 each. It describes the remarks by the judge as "expressions of great irritation, and of a determination to resent any deprecatory allusions to his official conduct." On November 8th, the judge was willing to annul Mr. Arden's recognizances.

At a dinner, November 6th, to celebrate the anniversary of the *Gazette*, the greatest harmony existed among the representatives of the Papers then present at the festival, and one of the speakers remarked that, "it was amusing to perceive that the public thought that the conductors of the Melbourne Journals were really serious in their occasional differences with each other." Among the toasts, were "Proprietor of the *Gazette*," "Advancement of Literature," "Operatives of the Trade," "The Independent Press," and "Colonial Authors."

The Prospectus of the *Melbourne Magazine*, November, 1841, observed that, "the very want of success which has attended the progress of similar publications in the sister colonies will be an incentive to their studies." It was to be a monthly, and have a leading article on the latest open question of colonial policy. The price would be half-a-crown a number, and it was calculated that 200 subscribers would cover the expenses in its earliest form.

On November 20th a leader explained the position of the Press under the *Gagging Act* of Governor Darling: "long felt as a reproach to the country, but up to the period of the present Governor's visit to Port Phillip, no tangible measure had been attempted to remove the obstacle it threw into the path of the independent public writer. The harshness with which the Resident Judge of the Province (*Willis*) declared his intention to enforce the enactments of this law brought about a demonstration on the part of the Melbourne Editors, which, spiritedly supported by their contemporary brethren at Sydney, will be the means, we are confident, of erasing this foul blot on the legislative history of New South Wales from the statute book of her Councils. The existence of the 'Newspaper Act' had been recognized by the Executive Government in Sydney, but its enactments had never been applied; or, as His Excellency expressed himself to the gentlemen of the Press, who waited upon him during his stay at Melbourne, it was considered to be *in force*, but had never been enforced."

Bunce's "Manual of Horticulture" was advertised in November, as well as Chauncey's "Plan of the Environs of Melbourne." On December 4th, the Proprietor published the names and amounts of 150 outstanding debts to the *Gazette*. The law was to be taken with neglectful debtors. The story is told of a New York mammoth paper, *The New World*, described by its editor as "five feet and eight inches by four feet and four inches, being within a few inches of fifty superficial square feet. There are in it five hundred and twenty-eight thousand *ems* of composition, being equal to about three ordinary duodecimo volumes. One only of these immense pages could be printed at one impression."

The first number of 1842 had 142 advertisements. The failure of the Sydney *Temperance Advocate* was then announced, from want of funds. Mr. Arden gave warning to defaulters: "All parties indebted to the *Gazette* for accounts standing out from the 30th of September, who do not wish their names to find an imperishable niche in our threatened publication of defaulters, are advised to take this third and last warning, make their peace of mind for life, and pay the Printer."

At the end of January, 1842, we read of the execution of two Tasmanian natives for the murder of two whalers at Cape Patterson, Port Phillip, the October before. They were belonging to Mr. Protector Robinson's Mission to the Port Phillip Blacks.

A miserable quarrel between Arden and John P. Fawcner, involving Kerr, the editor of the *Patriot*, occupies the pages early in March. The language on both sides is not choice. Arden was again brought before Judge Willis for a libel upon His Honour, when, in March, 1842, the Editor was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment and a fine of £300. "Never," said a Tasmanian paper upon the case, "did we see or hear of a Judge who took up so much time in his own defence."



Mr. W. Westgarth, as a Melbourne merchant, then advertised advances on wool clips.

Two or three numbers having come out on a smaller sized paper, the Publisher apologised; saying that "the quantity of letter press remains the same," but that the supply of paper in the old size had fallen off, owing to distance from England. He then noted the need of local supplies, in these words: "In Sydney a Type Founder has started in business, whose labour supplies materials for one branch. The introduction of a paper mill is the next great desideratum. These, and a superior run of artists in cutting brass, and making office fittings, would render the trade as independent as it ought to be, to keep pace with the enterprise of newspaper conductors, and the relish of the people for their production."

Early in 1842, the Paper was printed and published by Bernard Charles Jolly; towards the end of that year, by William Morton; in March, 1843, by Thomas Strode again; in 1844, edited by Thomas McCombie, published by T. Strode for the Proprietors; toward the close of 1844, printed and published by T. McCombie, who became sole proprietor in February, 1846. The *Port Phillip Christian Herald* commenced January 10th, 1846.

But it is necessary now to leave the *Port Phillip Gazette* for other Papers.

#### "PORT PHILLIP PATRIOT."

The PORT PHILLIP PATRIOT AND MELBOURNE ADVERTISER presented its Prospectus on January 30th, 1839, signed by John Pascoe Fawcner, sole Proprietor and Editor. However much touched up by a more skilful hand, there is sufficient indication of the part taken by the Father of the Port Phillip Press to give this Prospectus increased interest. Extensive extracts therefrom will be demanded from the historian of the Colonial Press:—

"The *Melbourne Advertiser* having been suspended in April, 1838, in consequence of a Notice from the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, stating, that by an Act passed in 1827, certain forms must be gone through in Sydney, or the Proprietor would render himself liable to heavy penalties; application through the regular channel was immediately made to the Governor-in-chief, that he would allow the required forms to be entered into in Melbourne; no answer to this application was given, until the Proprietor received notice that an Act had passed in accordance with his application. This was in December last, eight months having elapsed between the application and the passing of the Act.

"During so long a period of suspense, the Proprietor lost two of his compositors, one of whom he had, at no small expense, retained for six months, but who at length sailed for Launceston to find employment. Since it was known by the Proprietor that the Act above alluded to was in progress, he has spared no expense in endeavouring to replace his compositors, and in furnishing himself with additional and superior printing materials.

"Among the alterations which are intended, one is the name of the Paper, which will henceforth be called 'The Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser'; the first number of which may be expected on the 6th February next. The *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser* will be published on Wednesdays, thus dividing the week so as to prevent two newspapers issuing from the press on the same day.

"With respect to the principles of the *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser*, the Proprietor begs leave to say that they will be decidedly Liberal; and takes this opportunity of assuring the respected Editors of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, that he entirely dissents from the memorable paragraph in their first number, in which they remark that Politics, ELSEWHERE the great theme of contention, particularly WHEREVER a press has ROOM to exert its influence, will in this instance be held in ABEYANCE.

"In conclusion, the Proprietor of the *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser* feels it his duty to announce to the Public, that all communications tending to advance the welfare of this Embryo Kingdom and its enterprising people, or to check misgovernment, will be thankfully received," &c.

Terms were 8s. per quarter in advance, 10s. if paid on quarter day, but 12s. 6d. on credit. The first six lines of advertisements would be 3s., with 3d. additional for each line.

Mr. Rusden's "History of Australia" has these remarks upon the literary venture: "On the 27th of October of the same year (1838) the first duly licensed newspaper issued in Port Phillip made its appearance under the title of the *Port Phillip Gazette*, a bi-weekly journal. However, Mr. Fawcner was not a man to be quietly quenched out; for, as soon as possible after preparing the bonds, and perfecting the sureties which had to be entered into at Sydney, the local Government not then having the authority to do so, he again entered the field of literary glory at the head of a new journal, entitled the *Port Phillip Patriot*."

The *South Australian Gazette* of March 30th, 1839, remarked: "Mr. Fawcner's journal, we observe, has been recommenced under the title of the *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser*; and, we presume, from the number of advertisements which appeared in the first two numbers just received, that it is well supported by the inhabitants. The politics are to be Liberal: but *Patriot* is a somewhat suspicious name. We hope, however, that Mr. Fawcner's interest and good sense will prevent his journal degrading itself into the organ of a faction."

That paper, also, in April, 1840, wrote: "A change has taken place in the management of the *Port Phillip Patriot*. Mr. Smith, the Assistant Editor, has been advanced to the editorial chair, and Mr. Wm. Watkins has become the printer. Mr. Fawcner still continues the proprietor, but retires from the management." Mr. J. Pridham Smith was of the legal profession.

The other Melbourne Paper, in 1841, observed: "Mr. Kerr, the successful manager of the *Patriot*, a Paper which, when it was abandoned by Mr. Smith, the former Editor, was rescued from oblivion by his experience of newspaper control and his respectable abilities as a writer."

It was in 1841 that Mr. Kerr, afterwards the first Town Clerk of Melbourne, took charge. He was followed in 1845 by F. C. McEachern, from Sydney. Mr. Boursiquot bought the Paper in 1846, adding it to his *Standard*, and so making the *Daily News* of the Port Phillip district. This, as is well known, developed into the powerful *Argus*, which is thus, by a roundabout way, the successor of Mr. Fawcner's original manuscript forerunner of the Melbourne Press.

We now turn to the *Patriot* itself. It began on Wednesday, with eight pages, three columns each, on a paper about 11½ inches long and 8 broad till May 25th, 1840, when it was 17½ by 11. On July 24th it became 17½ by 14½, four columns, having six pages on Monday, four on Thursday. On November 2nd there were four pages of six columns; but March 1st, 1841, presented four pages of seven columns, on a paper 22 by 16½. Advertisements grew rapidly. There were 73 on July 20th,

1840; but 142 on March 4th, 1841. It must be noted that the paper by no means preserved uniformity in size, varying sometimes an inch or more in length or breadth. The publication day, Wednesday at first, was changed to Monday in the following April. On July 4th, 1839, a Thursday issue supplemented the Monday one.

The *Patriot*, as the successor of the manuscript *Advertiser*, was a racy publication, and afforded much amusement to bystanders, if it did not a little ruffle the susceptibilities of others. Mr. Fawcner was a Bedouin of the Press in the gift and reception of blows, and these of a most direct-thrust character, in keeping with the primitive times. It was certainly not the organ of the more respectable class, though doing good service in its candid exposure of abuses, with no velvet glove to conceal its claws.

Its estimation in Sydney may be gathered from this criticism in the *Sydney Gazette* of December, 1839: "We give a letter, addressed to the *Port Phillip Patriot*, as a specimen of refined writing or eloquent diction, which, in our opinion, would not have been published in any other but a *Patriot* journal; the note of the *Patriotic* editor is in perfect keeping with the style of his *Patriotic* correspondent. We are much mistaken if the *Melbourne Herald* will not drive the *Patriot* out of the field. Surely common decency, not to say cultivated taste, must be at a very low ebb in the 'Happy' land if a paper, conducted like the *Port Phillip Patriot*, can meet with remunerative support."

Yet, Mr. Fawcner, on April 24th, in a notice, declared: "The object of the proprietor being to furnish to the Public an Independent Journal at the lowest possible price without incurring loss, profit not being considered or required." It was, therefore, in that spirit he benevolently reduced the price of advertisements 33 per cent.

On February 6th a long poem was inserted, the last verse running:—

"But th' eternal Press  
Corruption's worms shall ne'er destroy,  
While Patriots shall its powers enjoy  
In peace and happiness."

Heading the political leaders, we find this quotation: "This is true liberty, when free-born men having to advise the Public, may speak free, which he can and will, deserves high praise; who neither can nor will, may hold his peace. What can be juster in a State like this!"

One day this moralising appeared: "We had anticipated for the Press of Port Phillip a high standing among the colonies, and we read, in great sorrow, an article in our contemporary of Saturday week last the paragraph referred to; it was at the close of a flowery verbal leader. The Editor had committed a breach of good manners." Yet the writer can speak of some colonists as "worshippers of the Baal of Van Diemen's Land, one Sir George Arthur."

Mr. Fawcner's Hotel was, of course, freely advertised, and it was a grand day in April, when Lady Franklin put up at that establishment, on her ramble across to Sydney. So distinguished a visitor was worthy of all honour in the little Settlement, and the *Patriot* announced:—"The proprietor, having purchased all the fireworks in the town, enlivened the sports of the evening by their aid."

It was pleasant to read, however, that there was a choice and well selected Library at the Hotel.

The Paper duly noticed the churches, chapels, temperance meetings, the races and the police court. Yet it was particular with contributors, thus:—"The POETRY, per post, was received, religious subjects are scarcely adapted our pages. We trust OUR correspondents will not forget to pay the post. 2 Z E really is not fit for WE."

A similar wit was displayed in police reports. For March 13th, we have these specimens:—"William —, John —, David —, come on, ye jolly dogs, fork out your FIVE BOB each, oh no, don't mention it. Oh, yes, if you please, or to the Timber HITCH you Go, and no mistake, down came the dust, what Good Boys, eh? Oh, yes."

Again—"Anne Dutton, not only tosticated, but also with letting fly the halyards of her jawing tackle, oh, Anne; very naughty indeed, Anne, don't come again, but by way of remembrance, just drop ten BOB into the incurable Funds, oh, yes."

Politics referred, naturally, to the neglect of Melbourne by the Sydney rulers, especially with such a Land Fund from the south. Addressing the colonist, the Editor exclaimed:—"Look at the sum total of your property, as at present invested by you in this beautiful district. Here it is—Eight hundred and six thousand and thirty-two pounds. Yet, what part have we in the Government at Sydney?"

It was greatly to the credit of the *Patriot*, that it zealously espoused the cause of the poor hunted aborigines, and condemned the liquor traffic among the unfortunate savages. It fought the battle for the Protectors, appointed by the Home Government, when other Australian papers were rather disposed to see only the dark side of the blacks.

The notice of the death of John Batman, the rival of J. P. Fawcner, for the honour of founding the settlement, is thus coolly given in the *Patriot* for May 6th, 1839:—"Died this morning, Mr. John Batman. He was one of the first Port Phillip settlers." A correspondent was permitted to mention his funeral on May 9th, followed by fifty of the leading citizens in respectful regret.

Mr. Fawcner, May 20th, "announces to the public that he is about to relinquish business as an hotel-keeper, in Melbourne, and trusts that all parties indebted to Fawcner's hotel, will see the necessity of closing accounts, to save themselves law charges." He afterwards opened a stationer's shop. One town lot that had cost him £25, sold for £950, on June, 1839.

A record then was printed concerning the press martyr, Andrew Bent:—"The oldest printer of Tasmania has left that once happy land to settle at Sydney. He was for a length of time the sole printer for that favoured land, and would have secured a competent fortune for his large and highly interesting family, had not the Editor of his journal embroiled him with the despotic Colonel Arthur. The fines and law expenses, together with imprisonment, and the tyrannic act of refusing to allow the offending printer to continue his trade, caused the partial ruin of an honest, industrious citizen."

We are informed, June 17th, of Melbourne receiving its largest vessel, a brig of 180 tons. The printer, July 4th, spoke of one of his trials; saying: "It is our intention to publish a single sheet every Thursday morning, gratis to subscribers, until we receive a larger press, daily looked for, then we prepare to enlarge our present sheet considerably, and alter its form; every arrangement is ready except the press. Persons who advertise in the Monday number will be only charged half price in the Supplement, and vice versa."

That month states: "Two hundred years ago, 1680, the first printing press was used in Cambridge (Massachusetts); who can clearly foresee what will be the progress of Australia Felix in the next 200 years. We say it will then be a mighty Empire."

In August came this language:—"Oh, My Eye!" "When the conductor of a LEADING Journal"—leading what? A—s. The *Gazette* of Saturday last commences with the above lines," &c. Then we have this fiery appeal—"Arouse yourselves, Australia Felicians, a new era dawns upon your adopted country. Lieut. Governor C. J. Latrobe has arrived at Sydney, and may be daily expected at Melbourne." "Our editorial eye surveys and watches for the rights of the people over the whole of Australia Felix."

The *Patriot* called the river, *Yarro Yarro*, not *Yarra Yarra*. On September 19th, seven of the eight little pages were filled with advertisements. One of these notified the sale of "the first allotment purchased in Melbourne"—No. 1, Block 2.

A letter of personal abuse was brought to Mr. Fawcner by a *Gazette* attendant. To this, a public reply was given October 7th, addressed to the "abortion who professes to conduct this degraded print;" (*Gazette*) further saying:—"We must ask this birth, rank and education gentleman (Arden) one or two questions. Does he know his own father? Is he or any man accountable for the vices, sins, or misfortunes of his father?" A little after, that writer was able to call public attention to the *soi disant* gentleman, being brought up at the police court as drunk and disorderly.

A Sydney Paper remarking that Port Phillipians should pay the salary of their Superintendent, Mr. Latrobe, and not come upon the revenue, the *Patriot* thus retorted—"Sydneyites—you are powerful at present—therefore use your weaker and younger relative with kindness, for the day is not far distant, when you will have to succumb under the wealth, power and intelligence of this youthful Empire."

The first number in 1840 had an excellent comparison of then existing Melbourne with that of 1830. The issue for February 3rd, 1840 had the following most interesting account by Mr. Fawcner, of his own Press adventures, in reply to some assumptions of the *Gazette* Editor:—"Upon the first day of January, 1838, we published a number of copies of a manuscript Paper (no other either written or published being extant at the time), and we continued to circulate it for a few weeks, when, having obtained a press and type, we did our best, under the circumstances of having no compositor or pressman, to produce it in a printed form; but having, in the latter end of April, received a notification from Government, that it would be necessary for us to discontinue our Paper, until we had gone to Sydney for the purpose of entering into the requisite sureties for conducting a newspaper, we were obliged to point out the hardship at being compelled to take so long a journey, and solicited the appointment of Commissioners in this town to take our sureties; and, as it required a special Act of Council to be passed for this purpose, we were necessarily at a standstill until it was obtained. The *Gazette* took advantage of our absence, and started into existence. But we only lay dormant, and that "absurd and contemptible publication" again awoke to the infinite chagrin of the *Gazette*. That our Paper does not equal the *Gazette* in size is our misfortune, not our fault, as we have used every exertion to obtain, and are daily in expectation of receiving, the gear necessary for putting ourselves, at least, on equal terms with that Paper."

A printer's difficulty cropped up early in 1840, in connection with a charge of neglect of duty brought against a compositor in the *Gazette* office. That Paper's version was given January 30th:—"The plea got up by the defendant's attorney was, that a compositor was an artist, not a mechanic: that his duties consisted of more than mere manual labour, inasmuch as it was an employment requiring mental ability. Mr. Cavenagh, of the *Herald*, in the course of his examination, showed that a man might acquire the knowledge of composing without being able to read, or understand the sound of a single letter. The Bench, therefore, decided that compositors, as hired labouring mechanics, came under the meaning of the Act, and were liable to imprisonment and loss of wages, if convicted of neglect of duty."

A Sydney Paper stated that Mr. Cavenagh "has persuaded the sapient Bench, in that wise sanctum sanctorum of justice at Port Phillip, that compositors are only common labourers." But six Melbourne compositors had an advertisement in the rival *Patriot*, addressed to Mr. Cavenagh, complaining of:—"The stigma which your evidence is calculated to attach to the labours of those by whose aid your own livelihood is acquired. In seeking to detract from the merits of compositors, you serve but to lower the dignity of that 'mechanical' profession into which you have so lately assumed a mastership."

In March, Mr. Fawcner notified his retirement from the Melbourne Circulating Library. But it was surely an oversight to allow his Paper to give the news that: "Among the passengers by the *Brankmoor* were: "Mrs. Batman, widow of Mr. Batman, the first colonist of Port Phillip."

The earliest increase of size was on May 25th, 1840, when there were four pages of four columns each, and fifty-three advertisements were inserted. Then it was reported: "Tipplers were below par this day, only two making their appearance." But a publican was fined £5 for serving a convict assigned servant at the bar, though he pleaded his inability to tell a bondman from a free one among his customers.

Mr. Fawcner advertised going into "cultivation on an extensive scale" at Pascoevale, and warned off trespassers from his land. A German advertisement was quoted: "The wife of — has suddenly departed from her husband's home. Whoever brings her back shall receive a good beating."

A June number refers to a public meeting, at which resolutions were passed in favour of devoting all the funds from land sales to immigration purposes, but taxing extra all persons employing convict labour in Port Phillip.

July 20th issue, though on a larger paper, had no increase of type. The old sized paper came back soon afterwards, but the larger returned August 13th, with no more printing matter. On November 2nd, however, the Paper was enlarged to four pages of six columns each, with 113 advertisements. The first article, on "The Melbourne Press," had these remarks:—"The very alteration has entailed a very heavy expense upon us. We promise our supporters to leave no stone unturned, or opportunity to escape us of catering for their information and amusement. We do not know that further promises on our part are required; we shall therefore make our bow without adding further professions, which are by far too common to be looked upon with sincerity."

As circumstances of a local character appear in the record of other Papers, and as so much space had been previously devoted to Mr. Fawcner's publication, we proceed to describe the third member of the Melbourne Press—the *Herald*.

"THE PORT PHILLIP HERALD."

This early Melbourne Paper was ushered into the world with some display of fireworks. The rush to the colony demanded a superior Newspaper, and a superior hand was required to steer it in such troubled waters. The *Herald* was indeed to herald a better day for the press; and, to judge by trumpet notes from Port Jackson, Mr. Cavenagh's experience was to accomplish a Press reform at Port Phillip. This is how the *Sydney Colonialist* spoke in November, 1839: "We congratulate the Public of Port Phillip on the literary acquisition they are about to obtain, in the establishment among them of a new twice-a-week Journal, to be published at Melbourne, under the title of the *Port Phillip Herald*. We congratulate them on this account, because the gentleman who is about to start the Paper is one whose respectability and merit will deserve the highest patronage and attention which the Public of Port Phillip can bestow upon him. Mr. Cavenagh, who had for several years conducted the *Sydney Gazette*, has purchased the type and apparatus of a printing office, and will in a few weeks proceed to Melbourne to commence his new undertaking, in which we wish him every success. Mr. Cavenagh has secured the literary assistance of Mr. Kerr, who has for a considerable time been his coadjutor in the *Gazette* office."

An advertisement subsequently told the Melbourne people that the new Paper, of the same size as the *Launceston Advertiser*, would come out on January 3rd, 1840. Surely a white-plumed being from afar has only to speak on a political platform, or to soil his fingers with the ink of press work, in order to learn that his character had been much misjudged in the other sphere. So Mr. Cavenagh found; for his contemporaries in literature assured the world that in intellect and heart he was far inferior to themselves.

This is how the *Gazette* could refer to the *Herald* in 1841: "For months together the dirty creature has been busy in plastering over his leprosy with the exuberant terms of rhetorical sophisms; but mark how easily we have dragged off the mask, and bared his loathsome diseases." Rusden's "History" thought that "the *Herald* was the leading journal when the colony fairly started on its career of settlement and permanent prosperity. It acquired its advanced rank by priority of birth, and kept its uniform position, floating down the same quiet stream on which its contemporary, the *Argus*, was subsequently launched." After the gold discovery it was conducted by Mr. F. Sinnott, and then by Dr. Evans from New Zealand. Its subsequent fate is described under the head of the *Argus*. But we turn now only to its early career.

The first number came forth on Friday, January 3rd, 1840, edited and published by George Cavenagh, sole Proprietor. Consisting of four pages, 22 inches long, it was printed by Joseph Thompson, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, and exhibited not less than 91 advertisements. It bore the motto, "Impartial—not Neutral." The days of publication were to be Tuesday and Friday.

Addressing the Public, the Editor had the following: "OURSSELVES. We do not, in commencing our labours in connection with the *Port Phillip Herald*, come before the Public as a stranger, or as one entering upon a new vocation. Most of our present readers are acquainted with the character which our conduct as a journalist has obtained for us, during a four years' connection with the *Sydney Gazette*. Being altogether ignorant of parties or partisans, in fact, ignorant of any cause for division, we purpose pursuing the even tenor of our way, the only ends we aim at being

'Our Country's, our God's, and Truth's.'

We conceive it to be a duty incumbent upon us to support 'the powers that be' but only in so far as their actions shall seem to us to merit support. Strictly Protestant in principle, we shall nevertheless strive to maintain undisturbed the harmony which at present happily subsists among the various religious denominations. We purpose distributing our first paper gratuitously to every respectable inhabitant of Melbourne or the adjacent country."

A good article followed on the promise of the Port Phillip coal. An intimation is given of a steam communication between Sydney and Melbourne. We are told that Mr. Fawcner had cut a cabbage in his garden weighing ten pounds, and that the four-pound loaf was over two shillings; it was, however, three shillings the following month. Complaints were uttered on Melbourne's want of a signal station, of pilots, of a coroner, of means to recover debts without going to Sydney, of a town delivery of letters, and of a gaol larger than a watch-house. It was some comfort, however, to know on January 24th that, "yesterday's post brought the overland mail from Sydney for both the present and past week."

The following advertisement in the February *Herald* is a specimen of a colonial auctioneer's eloquence on a "celestial" garden a mile from Melbourne: "It is ever charming, ever verdant, except where the chaste native flower throws in variety of colours to dazzle and arouse our admiring senses. How can it be otherwise, where winter's chill is never felt, and the ardent ray of the summer's sun is gently cooled by the placid zephyrs rising from the beauteous banks of the lovely Yarra, and gracefully moving the heads of the slumbering shrubs," &c., &c.

The *Sydney Herald* is quoted in praise of the *Port Phillip Herald* for "the superior manner in which it is 'got up,' and the careful exclusion of all personal matter." The Melbourne *Gazette* remarked of the new Paper: "Its greatest fault appears to us to be a want of energy and decision, which gives a character of extreme sameness." Messrs. Arden and Fawcner were not so to blame.

In February, the Compositors found great fault with Mr. Cavenagh for slighting their art, as is elsewhere noted. Mr. Cavenagh declared he had spoken of reading not being essential; adding,—"Compositors who do not even know the names of the Greek, Hebrew, and Syriac letters, are employed in the composition of works in those characters." He then quoted this account just received from Sydney:—"Great work among the compositors here. They want to be masters. The compositors of the *Herald* (Sydney), have given notice that they are going to leave, because the proprietor, Mr. Stokes, had refused to accede to their demand of sending some of his apprentices away. Mr. Stokes, however, has hit upon rather a novel plan, which bids fair to enable him to resist their demands; he is teaching several young men to compose. They have only been a week under his tuition, and you would be surprised how well they compose for so short a time."

In reply to an attack by the *Gazette*, the Editor, on April 3rd, wrote:—"The *Port Phillip Herald* was established with the view of correcting the deplorable spirit of personality and scurrility which had displayed itself in the management of the Melbourne Press, and rendered it a bye-word, and a reproach wherever it was known. This being the case, our contemporary may rest assured that we are not to be driven from 'the even tenor of our way' by any degree of abuse."

Mr. Fawcner took this up, and accused Mr. Cavenagh of having been the editor of "the most intolerant, bigotted, and lyingly-censorious journal in the Colonies." The other replied:—"Not

feeling inclined to bandy epithets with Mr. Fawcner, we shall content ourselves with simply referring the curious to the back files of the *Patriot*, where, no doubt, they will find a sufficiency of personalities to satiate their curiosity."

A strong public protest was raised in May, against using the Land Sales fund of Port Phillip to pay for the establishment of a Colony in New Zealand. In that month, too, public action was taken for separation from Sydney rule.

September 4th issue relates that, "Mr. Stokes, of the *Sydney Herald*, has received advices of the shipment of twelve compositors for the *Herald Office*, on board the *Mary Anne*, now daily expected at Sydney. More were to follow."

New Year's Day, of 1841, gives occasion for another "OURSELVES," saying: "We wish not to be invidious, but with pride and truth be it asserted, that the Colonial Press of Melbourne will, in every respect, stand the test of the strictest comparison with the Press of any other Colony of the British Dominions." That issue had 130 advertisements.

In May, it was said: "Our new press and types having arrived in the *Ann Sophia*, we are happy to inform our patrons that we shall shortly be enabled to redeem our pledge, in making the *Port Phillip Herald* equal in size to that of the leading Sydney journals."

On January 7th, 1842, it was notified that Mr. G. D'Arley Boursiquot was appointed reporter of the Paper, and that the proprietors of the three Melbourne Papers had agreed upon the same terms for advertisements.

The contest between Judge Willis and the Press, described under "Gazette," drew in the *Herald*, but more on Arden's side; and, therefore, in opposition to the *Patriot*. Yet the editors of all three united in withdrawing from a public banquet, at which the stewards declined presenting the toast of "The Press," in order to avoid anything political.

In February, 1842, the name of Printer and Publisher was changed from G. Cavenagh, to Charles Fyshe. The office was at the corner of Elizabeth and Little Collins Streets. The Paper gave good reports of all meetings of the temperance movement, not less than of the lively doings of bush-rangers, just outside of Melbourne. But space will not allow further remarks upon this Paper, which fell in a gallant fight with a younger and more energetic competitor, as described in the account of the *Argus*.

The *Melbourne Satirist* is thus mentioned by the *Melbourne Courier* of December 28th, 1845:—"We feel happy in being enabled to dissolve the fears of the ladies and gentlemen of Melbourne, by assuring them, that Mr. Levien has most prudently abandoned his project of establishing this journal. The wisdom thus displayed by the "Satirical Gentleman" cannot be doubted; for, judging by the fate of those having anything to do with such publications, either in the Colony or at home, we are inclined to believe that had Mr. Levien started in his editorial career, it would, in all likelihood, have conducted him into Governor Wintle's hospitable and elegantly furnished mansion" (alias, the Melbourne Gaol).

#### THE "GEELONG ADVERTISER."

Geelong, so pleasantly situated upon Corio Harbour, bid fair at one time to become the capital of Port Phillip. It was in its neighbourhood that John Batman, the Founder of the Colony, first landed. The pastoralists for some years looked to it as their port. All around it the country was fair and fertile. But the bar at the bay entrance was its bar to progress.

The prospectus of the Geelong Paper in September, 1840, said: "No apology is deemed necessary for bringing this new journal before the notice of the public. The rising importance of the Geelong district is a sufficient proof that it is wanted, and the public spirit of the enterprising settlers is a sufficient guarantee that it will be supported." It was to be the newspaper organ of the district. The first issue was on November 22, 1840. No copy is known in London libraries. The type was that formerly used in the *Patriot*. The British Museum collection has No. 10 of the *Geelong Advertiser*, Corio, Saturday, January 23rd, 1841. It declares itself "Edited by James Harrison, and printed and published for John Pascoe Fawcner (sole proprietor) by William Watkins, Corio, Australia Felix." There were four pages, with five narrow columns each, but most miserable type and press work. The price was 4s. 6d. a quarter, and an advertisement of six lines cost three shillings.

There is first a long advertisement, setting forth that an agent was about proceeding to England for indentured servants, on an engagement for three years, and that employers should pay thirty shillings for each procured immigrant, and an equal sum on his arrival, the Government bounty aiding in the voyage expenses. This was one of 53 advertisements.

Mr. Fawcner here appears as a writer for his own paper, addressing, through that medium, the colonial minister, Lord John Russell. A few passages are worth quoting from this pioneer of the Press in Launceston, Melbourne, and Geelong: "My Lord,—I approach the subject of white or convict slavery with diffidence; the weight of evil it entails might well bear down a more practised pen. A residence in these colonies of upwards of thirty-seven years has put me in possession of sufficient data to assert (and to prove, if necessary) that wherever convict servants are domesticated, the moral character of the rising generation is in general more or less tainted. The inhabitants of this province (Port Phillip) are placed under the vile prison laws of the Great Gaol—Sydney."

In the following issue, Mr. Fawcner tells Lord John Russell that the Sydney journals were "with few exceptions, in the pay of the wool kings of Sydney, the high, pompous, thoroughbred aristocracy of Botany Bay." After enumerating the good things of Port Phillip, he proceeded: "Now, my Lord, I seriously ask, are all these benefits to be given up merely to enrich the mean and self-sufficient aristocracy of the felonized colony of New South Wales?"

The Paper had a poem called "The Serenade, a Yankee Mosquito Madrigal." A Geelong publican, pitying the people dependent on the Barwon's foul surface water, advertised that he had imported a good iron pump to get from the lower part of the river, water "cold and clear," and added, "It will be open for the use of the public on reasonable terms." Few publicans have been such water benefactors.

One, Lucretia, takes up some complaint of Melbourne beauties; saying: "I ask, where are the neglected-forlorn-portionless, yet willing-to-be-wedded-damsels who now abound in Melbourne? I grant you, sir, there are a few unmarried ladies in this town. But that is not for want of offers of husbands. But, then, the offerers!"

An illustration of the *Bad Times* occurs in this passage: "We understand that it has been proposed to declare the whole colony insolvent, and that any person objecting to it shall be allowed to plead specially his exemption, and pay his creditors twenty shillings in the pound."

An exalted foresight of Geelong was published in March, under the head of "Corio in 1850": "The most remarkable characteristic of this great city is, that it has outstripped all the towns which were far advanced before Corio (Geelong) was heard of. Ten years ago, there were only about a dozen houses, where now flourishes the Emporium of the Australasiatic nations. The population is rated by the best judges at 65,000. There are six newspapers published here, one of which, the *Advertiser*, comes out daily, and its columns of shipping and mercantile intelligence is a true idea to the prosperous commerce of the port."

The Paper boldly espoused the cause of the, then, hunted and murdered Blacks, and encouraged the citizens to establish a Mechanics' Institute, afterwards esteemed one of the best conducted and best used in all Australia. But it spoke contemptuously of Politics on April 24th; regarding such as "only fit for the fourth page, where the reader who is fond of such garbage may luxuriate on it to his heart's content."

The first May number delights to see the stream of migration from Sydney to Melbourne, passing on thence to beautiful Corio Bay. But the week after we read: "No mail has arrived this week by land or by sea. The District of Geelong is now, as it were, banished from the rest of the colony."

Bunce's "Horticulture" was then seeking for subscribers, and Gould's "Birds of Australia" was being reviewed. *Publicola's* letters first appeared in the *Advertiser* during the month of May.

Complaint was made in August of the practice in Melbourne of hunting after advertisements; and saying: "Although this practice is allowable at the first starting of a newspaper, yet we never solicited a single subscriber, nor a single advertisement, and we have found the benefit of acting upon the maxim that Independence is the best."

As a bi-weekly, Monday and Thursday, it came forth in September, 1844, with the sole proprietor in James Harrison. It changed its title, May 28th, 1845, to *Geelong Advertiser and Squatter's Advocate*, in opposition to Governor Gipps' policy. The *Advertiser* was joined by Mr. (now Sir) Graham Berry to his *Geelong Register*.

The first appearance of the VICTORIAN COLONIST AND WESTERN DISTRICT ADVERTISER was on September 3rd, 1849, it being published in Geelong, or Corio, as the contemporary of the *Advertiser*.

#### "THE MELBOURNE COURIER."

The first copy of this journal was dated June 16th, 1845. It contained four pages, six columns each, appearing Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It was printed by Samuel Goode for William Kerr, editor and sole proprietor. An Address to the Electors showed Mr. Kerr to be then a candidate for legislative honours. The following extracts are from the Introduction, styled, "Ourselves":—"Time honoured custom requires of every fresh candidate for the honour of guiding the public mind, a lengthy exposition of his political creed, and of his views and opinions on 'things in general'—ours being, however, not exactly 'a first appearance,' but rather, if we may so call it, the re-appearance of an old friend with a new face; we think the custom will, in our case, be 'more honoured in the breach than in the observance.'"

The *Courier's* motto, so well known afterwards, as adopted by another paper, was: "I am in the place where I am demanded of conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it whoso list." The paper strongly advocated Separation from New South Wales.

In August, Mr. Kerr advertised a demand for payment of all debts owing to the *Port Phillip Patriot*, prior to April 1st, 1845. Mr. P. L. Simmonds advertised his Foreign and Colonial Agency and Commission Office, Cornhill, and notified the appearance of his *Colonial Magazine* in London on the first day of 1846. The *Courier* lived but few months.

#### THE WESTERN PRESS.

Some further illustration of the provincial press in Port Phillip may be cited. Allusion has been made to the singular fertility of periodicals in Portland. A transference of one to the neighbouring and agricultural township of Belfast marks a change. Portland had three Papers when its resident population was seven hundred.

The *Portland Gazette and Belfast Advertiser*, of January 26th, 1849, was numbered 229. Its Proprietor was Thomas Hamilton Osborne. As a weekly, it had four pages of five columns. The motto was *Pro Patria Semper*.

The *Belfast Gazette and Portland and Warrnambool Advertiser* began its career on Friday, April 6th, 1849, carrying the transference in the motto, *Pro Patria Semper*, and being the same size as the old *Portland Gazette*. In fact, it was announced as "merely the old *Portland Gazette* published in Belfast, with a slight alteration in the title suited to the change."

"We are," said the Editor, "and are determined to continue, in every sense of the word, Independent. Thank God, we rely not upon the purse or patronage of any man or class, or upon any political party or religious sect, for pecuniary support. In petty personal disputes we shall not mix, nor do we wish even to hear of them. As the Squatters ever have been, now are, and will long continue to be, the grand stamina of the colony, the *Belfast Gazette* will be found, as the *Portland Gazette* has for many years proved itself, consistently and staunchly the Squatters' Advocate."

Among the items of news, we have that of Mr. Wilson, of the *Argus*, being committed, in heavy bail, for a libel upon the Resident Judge, in the publication of the speech by Mr. Johnston, co-proprietor of the *Argus*. A subsequent number noted the abandonment of the prosecution; the Editor declared "the whole proceedings are detestable."

The Early Struggles of the Press were continued in Belfast, as thus recorded in the Paper for May 4th:—"Owing to the misconduct of our men, we have been unable to get up the whole of the present number, according to our wish, in time for to-day's overland Mail. Had it not been for the prompt assistance of a friend, for whom we had to ride about forty miles, we could not have published so much news as we do."

#### "THE ARGUS."

This Paper, styled by Mr. Westgarth, the "*Times of the Southern Hemisphere*," undoubtedly ranks among the Port Phillip periodicals in the Early Struggles of the Press, as Mr. Wilson purchased Mr. Kerr's *Patriot* in 1847, being joined by his squatting partner, Mr. T. S. Johnston, in 1848. The *Argus* was then a bi-weekly, becoming a daily in June, 1849.

The *Melbourne Daily News*, successor to Mr. Fawcner's *Patriot*, and established by Mr. Howard, absorbed the *Times*, but was itself afterwards absorbed in the *Argus*, having been purchased for

£300 by Messrs. Wilson and Johnston at the beginning of 1852. That junction brought the *Argus* 600 subscribers, and a machine that could work off a thousand an hour. It was of four pages, seven columns, and numbered 1,994 in July, 1849, with eighty-five advertisements. Mr. D'Arley Boursiquot was the Publisher.

In 1848, with 625 copies, and £13 a week income from advertisements, the *Argus* expenses were £30 weekly. In May, 1852, with the *Diggings* in full cry, the Paper boasted of 5,000 circulation, while the advertisements brought in about £300 a week. The price was then lowered from threepence to twopence, in spite of paying compositors from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per thousand. Doubling its size in July, the advertisements rose to £800 a week.

Mr. Westgarth thus describes it in 1852:—"The *Argus* was at this time printed by means of four different machines, which were in almost constant operation. The hands employed in all departments amounted to one hundred and forty. As some specimen of the expenses attending the Colonial Press, it may be remarked, that while compositors are usually paid in Britain at the rate of 8d. or 9d. 'per thousand,' the payment in the *Argus* office is 2s. per thousand. The price of this immense Paper, with its voluminous reading matter, commercial and shipping intelligence, and upwards of 2,000 advertisements, is three halfpence to each town subscriber, whose Paper is delivered each morning at his residence. The cost of the mere paper, laid down in the colony, was at this time stated to be over 1½d. per copy, and the expenses were estimated at 1½d. more."

Of the *Argus* machine (Hoe and Co.) at the Melbourne Exhibition of 1888, it was written:—"The above machine prints, folds, and delivers the *Argus* in 2, 4, or 8 page form, and the *Australasian* in 4, 8 or 16 page form, at the rate of 24,000 and 12,000 copies per hour, respectively; the inset pages being pasted down the centre margins, and the complete papers counted in quires as they are delivered."

It was in 1852 and 1853 that the great struggle for supremacy took place between the *Argus* and the older *Herald*. The fight was severe, involving the loss to both of many thousands of pounds, but resulting in the triumph of the first. Rusden's "History of Australia" has this record:—"As soon as the active spirit of commercial enterprise breathed new life into the affairs of Port Phillip, and modern progress imparted its ardent impulse to the philosopher, the merchant, the mechanic, and the settler, the *Argus* managed by an energetic and adventurous proprietor, quickly and sensibly commenced diminishing the precedency of the *Herald*, which was then under the direction of a gentleman who, though respected as a citizen, with a reputation for propriety and integrity, was altogether wanting in those natural gifts and business acquirements calculated to sustain his Paper in the teeth of a strong and talented competition. So that, even before the opening of the Gold Fields, the *Argus* was, in sailor phraseology, well to windward, and caught the prospering gales of that stupendous discovery, while the sails of its contemporary were flapping idly against the mast. And when the *Herald*, in its turn, felt the influence of the breeze, the *Argus* was hull down in advance beyond all reasonable hope of being overhauled."

"The proprietor of the *Herald* made a bold but tardy effort to regain his bearing. He looked about for co-operation, and had the rare luck of securing as associates, men of position, of talent, and of means. The late Attorney-General, the new Editor of *Punch*, and a learned judge, were added to the staff; all working with a will, and at great pecuniary sacrifice. A new office was taken in a central position, new presses and types were brought into play, political sagacity directed its course, and distinguished ability shone out through its letter-press; but the *Argus* still maintained its advance, far, far away on the arc of the horizon. The advertisements, contrary to the general rule, secured its circulation."

Mr. Kerr had suggested the motto for the *Argus*—"I am in the place where I am demanded of conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it whoso list."

Of the enterprising conductor and editor, Mr. Edward Wilson, something must be said. Born at Hampstead in 1814, he removed to the colonies in 1842, having a distaste for his Manchester business. Two years later, he was on a cattle station, near Dandenong, with his life-long friend, Mr. Johnston. He commenced his political career in a series of letters in Kerr's Paper, under the signature of "Tota." Besides Mr. Johnston, there were subsequently associated with him, Mr. James Gill, Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, and his old schoolfellow, Mr. Allan Spowers. He was decidedly democratic in his political views, being the mouthpiece of malcontent diggers, and the vehement opponent of Government House Policy. His standing advertisement:—"Wanted a Governor," was a sore trouble to the weak, but well-intentioned, Governor Latrobe; whilst his violent language toward Governor Hotham and his advisers, made his Paper popular with the masses, and contributed in no small degree to hasten the coming of Responsible Government. His struggle to "Unlock the Lands" naturally made the *Argus* as hateful in the eyes of squatting monopolists, as it was welcome to all who sought the permanent settlement of the colony. His earnest protest in 1850 and 1851, against the renewal of transportation in Australia, largely increased the popularity of his Paper.

"He was," said his admirer, Mr. Westgarth, "a man of high qualities and noble longings, and scorned meanness of all kinds." But he admitted that "he greatly marred his influence by what might be called impetuous intemperateness in his early Press career." With increasing age and success, his liberalism toned down; and when, years after the victory was won, another rival rose, much more formidable than the *Herald* had been, the *Argus* was recognized as the organ of the Conservative party, as the *Age* was of that of progressive men. As one has said of the *Age* and *Argus*:—"The latter had taken up Free Trade and the "Classes," the former took up Protection and the "Masses."

Overwork and over strain brought on a disease of the eyes, necessitating Mr. Wilson's removal to London, for further advice, in 1877. A year or two after he resigned control of the Paper. Removing in 1868 to a lovely retreat at Hayes, in Kent, his bachelor life was passed enjoyably with a large circle of friends. On January 10th, 1878, he sank peacefully into his final rest.

The *Argus*, by the incorporation of the *Melbourne Daily News* and *Port Phillip Patriot*, which, under Mr. D'Arley Boursiquot, was the successor of Mr. Fawcner's *Port Phillip Patriot* and *Melbourne Advertiser*, has become the natural heir to the first and manuscript newspaper—the *Melbourne Advertiser* of January, 1838. The leap of half a century from the latter date, exhibits no more marvellous progression, as to wealth and civilization in Melbourne, than it does in the character and position of the press.

The first of January, 1860, when the daily *Argus* numbered 255, the Act came into operation for the transference of duties, relative to the publishing of newspapers and books, from the Colonial Secretary's office to the Supreme Court. That issue had 84 advertisements, being published by "Edward Wilson and James Stewart Johnston, joint-proprietors." It gave much news from

California, "the land of gold, crime, disease and death." That day, too, came out the "Squatters' Directory," price 2s.

On the 3rd January, the *Argus* wrote:—"Again unfortunate Melbourne is to be visited for its sins, with another course of three daily papers. Well, some people take a deal of killing certainly, but we are not impatient, and will try what another three months will do. Why our unfortunate brethren should endeavour thus to prolong a lingering existence, we cannot conceive."

The next week, in a war with the *Victoria Colonist* of Geelong upon the Separation question, the Editor ended an article thus: "And now, the *Victoria Colonist* having rashly ventured 'everything that is dear to man' upon this discussion, we will trouble him to send us up his wife and all his money by the first steamer."

On June 28th, 1850, it proudly declared, "The *Argus* having long since confessedly attained the position of the LEADING JOURNAL of Port Phillip, has now reached a circulation very considerably exceeding that of any of its contemporaries." It challenged others to a disclosure of affairs, stipulating for a fine of £50, and £25 to the Benevolent Asylum, from the two lowest records of the three papers.

The Editor could exclaim on November 28th, "The rapid progress of the *Argus* has now placed its circulation not only far above that of any of the other Melbourne journals, but within a trifle of the whole of them put together."

In the following year, 1851, came the great social as well as commercial convulsion in connection with the *Gold discovery*. This affected the Press no less than the counting-house and workshop. Printers ran off with carpenters and storekeepers from towns, and with shepherds and stockmen of the country, to dig for gold, indifferent to the fate of the newspapers deserted. The "slaughter of the innocents" was repeated that season among periodicals, and the *Argus* itself reeled under the mighty shock.

The sorrows and anxieties of publishers during the *Rush* to the diggings, if hardly to be reckoned among the "Early Struggles of the Australian Press," were, perhaps, greater than those experienced by the Howes, Bents, Fawkners, and Strodes, of primitive colonial times. It was a struggle for existence, which had to be maintained at the expense of cash, peace and rest.

Then came the turn of the tide, when advertisements crowded in upon the bewildered printer, and the wearied pressman could not meet the demand for copies. We cannot follow this interesting theme, but must give Howitt's description of one feature of *Argus* work: "One of the most striking scenes in Melbourne is the issue of one of its *Extraordinaries*, on the arrival of a mail from England. On approaching the office, you may see that the mail is in. There is a dense crowd of hundreds of people, all struggling and crushing to get in for a copy. The Press is its own obstruction; nobody can get in, or once in can get out, except a swarm of boys, who, creeping between the legs of the adults, possess themselves of armfuls of papers, at threepence each, for which, on emerging with them, they boldly ask half-a-crown! and I have seen them get it too."

#### THE EARLY "AUSTRALASIAN."

The almost-world-wide celebrity of the Weekly *Australasian*, published at the *Argus* Office, Melbourne, recalls to remembrance a Quarterly of that name, brought out over a dozen years before the advent of the existing *Australasian*.

The first number of the Quarterly *Australasian* was presented October, 1850. Octavo in form, it was printed by J. Harrison, Geelong, and sold by Pullar of Melbourne. The issue for October had 148 pages: that for January, 1851, had 168; and the third, for April, 1851, had 165. It was dedicated by the Editor, "To all who would see literature and art in Australia flourish in a degree worthy of the intelligence and spirit of her people, and of the high destinies of the Anglo-Norman Race." The objects are thus described:—

"1. To introduce to the Anglo-Australian public, the most remarkable of recent English publications. 2. To make its readers acquainted with the opinions and arguments of those who move the lever of public opinion on the popular questions of the day. 3. To enable them in some degree to keep pace with the onward march of science, and the progress of industrial and æsthetic art." It will be the aim of the *Australasian* to furnish to the upper classes of Colonists in the Australian group periodic supply of mental aliments, drawn fresh from the fountain head of English Literature.

It is needless to say that, in spite of commencing with a capital list of subscribers, chiefly of the Squatter class, the undertaking was too ambitious for that early stage of Colonial civilisation. But its very appearance evidences another phase of the Early Struggles of the Press.

The *Melbourne Church of England Messenger* commenced in January, 1850, 20 pages 8vo., 3d. a month. The Bishop's Introduction observed: "The character of a man depends much more than is commonly supposed upon the books which he is accustomed to read. Hence the benefit of employing our leisure hours upon the perusal of such works as may enlarge our stock of useful knowledge, improve our understanding, correct our judgment, inspire us with sound moral principles, and above all, help to establish us in the faith and love of the living and true God. The principles upon which it is wished to carry on the *Church of England Messenger* are those of Christian charity, but not of latitudinarian indifference."

The *Illustrated Australian Magazine* came out in July, 1850, with the motto, *Non progredi est regredi*, in 88 pages, octavo. It was printed by Samuel Goode, Swanston Street, Melbourne, for Thomas, Jabez, and Theophilus Ham, sole proprietors. There were literary, scientific, musical, and statistical notices, with much local matter, and some poetry. The illustrations were in first-class style, as might be expected from so able and enthusiastic an engraver as Thomas Ham.

In the Introductory Address, expression was given to some grounds of anxiety; as: "Failure after failure has been the result of similar speculations; and periodicals of considerable promise have either struggled through a brief existence to an early demise, or put forth Prospectuses which elicited no prospect of support. Every attempt in Sydney to establish a literary or scientific Periodical has hitherto failed; nor has greater success attended one or two projects of the same nature in Adelaide; and it will be a proud record in the annals of Melbourne to have first evoked a genuine spirit of literary exertion, and to have carried on the effort with success."

At the end of the year 1850, the conductors admit that the enterprise "entails upon us an outlay which precludes all idea of profit without more effective support." Alas! the next year brought in the *Gold Fever*, and the proprietors suddenly saw their expenses multiplied many times, old sub-



scribers lost in the diggings, and new subscribers not forthcoming, in the whirl and rush of that unexampled period of social excitement. The new venture added to the long list of literary failures to the deep regret of those who valued literature and art.

#### "VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE."

The first number of this publication is dated Wednesday, July 9th, 1851. It contained 80 pages foolscap, consisting of the various Acts of Parliament affecting the constitution of the new colony of Victoria, after the separation of Port Phillip District from New South Wales. It was therein declared that "All Notices, with the exception of those from Poundkeepers, which are intended for publication in the Government Gazette, must, in the first instance, be sent to the Colonial Secretary."

Number 2, of twenty pages, has official correspondence, congratulatory addresses to Lieutenant-Governor Latrobe, a list of unclaimed letters at the Post Office, various Government advertisements, impounding notices, &c. The imprint is: "Printed by G. D. Boursiquot, Great Collins Street, Melbourne." This, however, was in following issues changed to "Printed by George D'Arley Boursiquot, at the Office of the 'Melbourne Daily News,' Collins Street, Melbourne."

In Number 3 are notices of Crown Lands, transfers of Runs, and Census Returns. In the fifteen Police Districts, there were on March 2nd, 1851, 46,202 males and 31,143 females. The five wards of Melbourne had 12,374 males and 10,769 females; while Geelong contained 4,491 and 3,800. There were 21,529 males married, 33,673 unmarried. Bondmen were 143; bondwomen 3 only, and these holding tickets-of-leave. The rest of the total population of 77,345 are classed as "Born in the colony, or arrived free," 43,006 males, and 30,784 females; or as "other free persons," 3,053 males and 356 females. Though 79 convicts were in Government employment, only 2 were assigned in private service.

Various Blocks and allotments were then required to be paved, drained, &c.; and 74 Government Notices were published. Number 6 has 200 and 210 notifications of land for sale by Public Auction. Number 7 contains the Order of August 18th, 1851, respecting the issue of Licenses for the search after Gold, at thirty shillings a month, to come into operation on the 1st of September. N. A. Fenwick, Esq., was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands, for the issue of such licenses.

#### THE "AGE."

Though this is one of the most successful and most widely read of all Australian publications, it does not come within the period of "Early Struggles" of the Press, commencing as it did so recently as 1854. It may, however, be mentioned that the *raison d'être* for its advent was the feeling of dissatisfaction with the *Argus* which then prevailed in certain religious circles, as well as displeasure at the wild Democratic course that Paper was thought to be pursuing. A determination arose to originate what would be deemed a more Christian and moderate journal.

The first names associated with the *Age* were those of two worthy merchants, John and Henry Cooke. As might be expected, a loss of money followed the effort to put down the *Argus* and its sentiments. When, however, those employed upon the newspaper saw the proprietors unwilling to carry on so risky a speculation, they combined on a certain mutual agreement to continue it. After a brief and brave struggle, the co-operators had some dispute among themselves, and disposed of all the plant to Mr. Ebenezer Syme. He was ultimately joined by his brother, David. But the original design of the undertaking has scarcely been realised in the present free-speaking and Radical *Age*, though the enormous success of the venture has proved the worldly wisdom of the plans adopted by the existing proprietary.

Mr. Rusden, in his "History of Australia," has a lively sketch of it, saying: "Since my last notice of the fourth estate, a new and able daily organ had arisen in the *Age*, which broke the shell as an Evangelical emanation, but as the 'spirit was wanting,' as well as the sinews, it discarded the shovel hat, the black coat, the white choker, and every other garment, even unto the last pin of super-sanctified hypocrisy, and came before the world in the plain garb of a People's Journal." Alluding to the two proprietors, he adds: "Abandoning the trade of 'beating the drum ecclesiastic' for a strum on the popular banjo, changing their key from the pulpit *whine* to the *ore rotundo* of public declamation, and with a degree of undeniable talent, quite on a par with their boldness and versatility, both these men have succeeded in establishing themselves, in the face of reverses and a fierce opposition."

On New Year's Day, 1850, they could say that they had gained 700 new subscribers in the last two months. They added: "The efforts made to intimidate this journal have been unsuccessful; but at the time they caused us many misgivings. To have an extensively ramified agency continually operating against you is not to be treated as a light matter. However, we nailed our colours to the mast."

The MELBOURNE LEADER, taken up by the two *Age* proprietors, June 14th, 1856, was started by Messrs. W. Wilson and Co., January 5th, 1856. It contained sixteen pages, or sixty-four columns, for sixpence. Other weekly papers were mainly for country circulation, but this was intended more for town use. The enormous success of the *Leader* is well known; and only the *Australasian* of the *Argus* office can compete with it in all Australia for the variety and excellence of its matter. Each weekly issue is a complete library of information.

It was not considered necessary to notice all the Victorian newspapers in this record of "Early Struggles," but a reference may be given to some few more. Certainly those periodicals had an influence in a small community, when Governor Gipps could write to the Colonial Office: "If there were one place in the wide world where the newspapers did as they thought fit, it was Melbourne." Yet, as to profit, their very numbers assuredly made it hard to meet expenses.

The *Weekly Free Press and Port Phillip Commercial Advertiser* was brought out by James Shanley, of Little Collins Street, with Dr. Greaves for editor, on July 3rd, 1841, as the Roman Catholic organ, but lived only a few months. The *Portland Mercury* rose in 1842; the *Portland Guardian* belonged to Rev. P. Wilkinson. The *Abion*, under S. G. Goode, lived a year after its birth in 1847. The *Melbourne Times*, afterwards (1844) absorbed in the *Argus*, was started by R. J. Howard in 1842. The *Standard*, 1845, was joined by Mr. Boursiquot to the *Patriot*. The *Belfast Gazette*, by T. H. Osborne, arose in 1845; but the *Warrnambool Examiner*, by Osborne and Wilkinson, in 1851. The *Observer*, a pastoral organ, was ably conducted by Mr. Colin Campbell in 1848. The *Advocate* was begun by Graham Findlayson in 1850. The *Port Phillip Christian Herald*, by the Rev. J. Forbes endured from 1846 to 1851.

After the Gold Discovery of 1851 came the *Gold Diggers' Monthly Magazine*, by James Bonwick, October, 1852; the *Weekly Reformer*, Temperance organ, by W. Campbell, 1853; the *Banner*,

Presbyterian, 1853; the *Bendigo Advertiser*, December, 1853; *Mount Alexander Mail*, by Sinnett, then by Matthews and Saint, May, 1854; *Ballarat Times*, March, 1854; *Ballarat Star*, September, 1855; *Melbourne Illustrated News*, 1853; the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, January, 1855; the *Melbourne Punch*, 1856; *Melbourne Monthly Magazine*, May, 1855.

Later on came the *Hamilton Spectator*, February, 1860; the *Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser*, by Julius Vogel; the *Bendigo Independent*, January 1, 1862; *Ballarat Evening Post*, May, 1863; *Gipps Land Mercury*, *Gipps Land Times*, at Sale, 1860, &c.

A few more notices of the early Port Phillip Press, as given by old writers, will not be out of place.

Carr's "Squatting in Victoria" had the following reminiscence of 1839: "On the day of our arrival in Melbourne, I remember being somewhat struck with the leading article in the newspaper, which was a diatribe on the doings of the wife of the principal merchant. From the article in question, it appeared that the lady had given a ball the night previously, to which all the *élite* of the place had been invited; and, congenially, perhaps with the advanced lights prevalent at the moment in the future capital of Australia Felix, she had thought fit to receive the company seated on a chair, which stood on a dais beneath a canopy. The name of the editor, however, from some cause or other had been omitted from the list of invitations; and to mark his disapproval of such treatment, he had indited a leader making savage sport of the lady and her doings."

Murray's "Summer at Port Phillip," 1843, acknowledged "a considerable degree of talent displayed by the conductors of the Melbourne journals, and, in general, their columns are free from that tone of infamous personality that disgraces too many sections of the colonial Press."

On the other hand, Byrne's "Twelve Years' Wanderings in the British Colonies," from 1835 to 1847, gave this opinion: "It is much to be regretted that the Port Phillip journals partake so largely of the besetting sin of local papers, viz., low personality and scurrility; in this, although conducted with talent, the Melbourne papers are so conspicuous, and have done serious injury to the District, not alone through their personalities disgusting individuals, and preventing them from settling there, but by exciting and sustaining a spirit of religious and sectional hatred."

The *Port Phillip Patriot*, on the 1st of January, 1845, had this very descriptive statement of the Press of the period: "The good folks of Melbourne (about 10,000) are likely to have newspapers in plenty for the quarter commencing to-day, the *Patriot* and the *Herald* in future appearing three times a week, and a new advertising sheet to be called the *Shipping Gazette*, issuing from the *Gazette* office. After this present week the following will be the daily publication of newspapers: Monday, the *Patriot* and the *Shipping Gazette*; Tuesday, the *Herald* and *Government Gazette*; Wednesday, the *Patriot*, *Gazette* and *Standard*; Thursday, the *Herald*; Friday, the *Patriot*; Saturday, the *Herald*, *Gazette*, *Standard* and *Courier*; making in all thirteen publications in the course of the week. Of course, this won't last beyond the quarter, but in the meantime it beats hollow all the other publishing towns in the Australian Colonies (Portland, perhaps, excepted). Sydney, the Goliath of Australian cities, has a fluctuating publication of about 20; Hobart Town, 8; Launceston, 5; Adelaide, 5; Portland, 3; Geelong, 2; Parramatta, 1; Maitland, 1; Windsor, 1; the colony of New Zealand, 4; and the colony of Swan River, 2."

A work of 1846—Haydon's "Five Years' Experience in Australia Felix," noticed the *Patriot* under Mr. Kerr, the *Gazette* under Mr. McCombie, the *Herald* of Mr. Cavenagh, in laudable terms, and then added: "The *Port Phillip Gazetteer*, although last mentioned, is not by any means the least amongst these triumphs of the Colonial Press. It is published by Thos. Strode, Esq., edited by George Boursiquot, Esq."

Dr. Lang's "Phillipsland," describes the state in 1846-7, saying: "There are four newspapers published in Melbourne—the *Patriot*, a daily paper, and the *Herald*, the *Argus*, and the *Gazette*, which are all published either twice or thrice a week. There is certainly no lack of ability in certain of those papers, and they have occasionally rendered good service to the public; but they have unfortunately neutralised their own influence very much, and set the worst possible example to the community, by the vice of the Colonial Press generally, their perpetual carping at each other."

In 1848, Mr. Westgarth's "Australia Felix" remarked: "Melbourne publishes four different newspapers, one of which is now daily, the others twice a week, with frequent "Extraordinaries" on Sydney post days, or other occasions of important news. Geelong exhibits one newspaper, and the small town of Portland possesses two. The newspaper in Australia is an engrossing subject. It is read by all. To be ignorant of its intimations is to be severed from the world around you. Every movement in the social or commercial circles is there recorded, stamped with immortality, and every circumstance excites an interest, where nearly all the members of the small community are more or less known to one another. In the colony, the means of purchasing a newspaper are also in a greater number of hands than in places having the same amount of population in the mother country."

Five years later, Howitt, in "Land, Labour, and Gold," told this tale: "At this moment Melbourne publishes four newspapers, the *Argus*, *Herald*, *Banner* and *Express*, the two first daily, the *Banner* twice a week, and the *Express* weekly. The *Herald* and *Argus* are newspapers which would maintain a high rank anywhere; the former edited by Mr. Frederick Sinnett, the son of Mr. Sinnett, well known in English literature. The *Argus*, however, edited by Messrs. Wilson and Mackinnon, from its bold spirit, enterprise and popular democratic tone, carries all before it."

Mr. McCombie, who long conducted the *Patriot*, made these remarks on the old Melbourne Press: "Our newspapers have not been untainted with glaring defects, but those who have bought have been worse than those who sold the poisoned draught. In the early days of the colony, any journalist who received the support of one of the factions, had to abandon the whole control of his paper to its leaders. The writers thought too little of the moral responsibilities of their position. They wrote against men, not measures. We hope that Victoria will boast an intellectual and progressive people, and that journalists will lead the van, not straggle in the rear."

## EARLY STRUGGLES OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PRESS.

THE Colony of South Australia originated in a different manner, and was established on different principles, to what had been observed in the other settlements of Australia. It did not proceed from the action of Government, as in the foundation of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, nor from the movement of a few speculators, who sought to grasp enormous estates on easy terms, as in the formation of Western Australia. It sprang from a popular, co-operative idea, and its founders were not self-seekers.

Unlike the other colonies, it was begotten by a spirit of patriotic philanthropy. Derided as dreamers, the gentlemen who combined to carry out the "South Australian Association," under private control, asked only from Government the use of lands neglected and valueless, in a project that contemplated the relief of the working classes. If they could induce the richer to purchase such acres in the wilderness, means would be found to ship off labourers, who would find employment on those farms, which would thus obtain a value from that labour.

The free shipment was confined to persons of good character, mainly young couples and their families. There were to be no vast territorial domains, for only 80-acre allotments were to be surveyed for sale. The Parliament, it is true, nominated certain Commissioners, from whom an annual report was required, but, as soon as population warranted it, the settlement was to be absolutely self-governing.

Promoters were jubilant as they contemplated a happy coming era for their poorer countrymen, and the concentration of the people in townships would be helpful to the cause of School and Church. There would be few rich, but many comfortable. Virtues would be fostered; but vices, alike of wealth and poverty, have no nurturing ground.

From the first, the benevolent founders regarded the Press as a trusted auxiliary of their plans. Thus, we read in a work brought out by Knight, in 1834, of "the *South Australian Gazette*, a newspaper for the new colony, of which some of the first numbers are to be published in England for the use of the colonists before their departure."

Then, a Western Australian Journal, November 19th, 1836, had this: "We noticed a few weeks back that the first number of the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* had been received here. This number was published in London, but the second is to issue in the *City of the Wilderness*, of which the site is not known. This is one of the grossest deceptions in the shape of puff which have been palmed upon the public; but this is not our province to cavil at, as its palpable absurdity must inevitably unmask the design."

The GAZETTE AND REGISTER did first come out in London as early as June 18th, 1836, before any emigrant had started, though when the "Buffalo" was ready to sail. When, after a settlement was made, a strong party of officials contemplated bringing forth an opposition Paper, they issued an address inviting help, and brought certain charges against the *Gazette* proprietor in relation to his London commencement of the journal.

The Editor, in reply, gave some news of its origin. Stephens, in his "History of South Australia, 1839, remarked that the Editor denies that the *Gazette* was "commenced in England at the suggestion, and with the support, of the then existing body of the colonists and many of their friends." He asserts that he commenced it in England without the suggestion of, and almost without knowing or consulting a single colonist, least of all, with a single exception, any of the individuals whose names are attached to the address. He declares that it is equally false that "partial and garbled articles have been inserted, or investments in land discouraged rather than advocated;" also that "no number of the Paper had appeared in the colony without being distinguished by anonymous calumnies, inserted and defended only for party purposes and the gratification of personal feelings." "We have," says he, "drawn upon ourselves this heavy affliction, certainly, by most unwise conduct on our part, and, what is worse, we are perverse enough to make no concession, to promise no better behaviour for the future."

In James's work on the colony, also published in 1839, we read of the *Gazette* as follows: "The only thing that could be said against it was, that it appeared at very long intervals, and with great irregularity, sometimes as long as three weeks intervening between the days of publication. But the best eulogium upon its fearless and independent character was, that it gave great offence to those who were turning their official situations in the colony to their own private advantage."

But it is time to turn to the Paper itself, and let it be the chronicler of its own proceedings. It certainly came out irregularly till June 16th, 1838, when a weekly. In 1839 it was the *South Australian Register*, appearing as a bi-weekly in 1843, and a daily in 1850, under Mr. John Stephens. It was then sold to Messrs. Anthony Forster, E. W. Andrews, Wm. Kyffin Thomas and Joseph Fisher.

The first copy of the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* was published by L. Wild, 13, Catherine Street, Strand, London, and dated Saturday, June 18th, 1836. The price was 6d. unstamped, 9d. stamped; the price of the Paper in the colony, £2 2s. per annum, paid in advance. For the first issue, Messrs. Clowes and Sons, Duke Street, Stamford Street, Lambeth, were the printers.

The size of the first paper was 16½ inches by 11; the 2nd number, printed a year after, was 17½ by 11 inches. The next change, made August 29th, 1840, was to 22 inches by 16, though of four pages only.

Number 1 has advertisements from H.M.'s Colonization Commissioners, from the South Australian Company, the South Australian Church, Torrens on South Australia, and half-a-dozen private firms. The eight pages, three columns each, contain four columns of an Editorial article; a Brief Description of South Australia, 2½ columns; Constitution and Government of the Colony, 2; Emigration Land Regulations, 3; Church and Education in South Australia, 2; the South Australian Company's Objects, 3; Presentation of a Silver Vase to Colonel Torrens, 1; Value of Land in Sydney and Van Diemen's Land, Colonial Imports and Exports, Whale Fisheries and Woolstaple of South Australia, besides an article upon Opposition to the Colony.

The English Editor's Introduction of the *Colonial Register* began thus: "To print the first number of the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* in the capital of the civilized world, with the intention of publishing its second number in a City of the Wilderness, of which the site is yet unknown, may appear to many more chimerical than interesting. It may be thought that in a colony, the population of which at the outset must necessarily be limited, the establishment of a Journal like the present is premature. That we do not think so, the fact of types (precisely

similar to those which have printed what the reader now holds in hand), printers, presses, paper, and the whole *matériel* of a Newspaper, being already on shipboard, and bound to South Australia, sufficiently proves. But the history of the progress of a colony founded upon principles which are believed to be the true principles of colonization, ought, we think, to be a source of deep and permanent interest to everyone who has at heart the welfare of our Poor, and the increase of the prosperity of our country; and as our journal is intended, not as a vehicle for the diffusion of political or party opinions, but as the simple record of the proceedings of a new colony, which professes to commence with the elements of society already formed, and society itself to a certain extent matured, with a government organised and complete, and to be conducted on the principle of selling unoccupied land to the settler, and expending the price received for it in providing him with labourers to render it productive and valuable, we are ever led to the conclusion that our *Register* may find its way into the hands of the statesman and the philanthropist at home, by whom the importance of this experiment on society in England, and on the future well-being of all her colonial possessions must be at once discerned.

"As the official acts and orders of the Colonial Government will be published in this Journal, that portion of the paper containing these acts and orders will be called the *Gazette*. The *Register*, being devoted to the elucidation of the principles of colonization, to the record of the establishment and progress of the colony, is altogether *non-official* and under independent control."

Then follows a criticism upon the formation of other colonies, and a statement of the care taken to avoid the rocks and shoals which brought so much trouble to them. In fact, the rest of the long *Leader* is but a defence of South Australian policy.

Announcement is made of a clergyman (Mr. Howard) proceeding thither, being recommended by the Bishop of Chester. Subscriptions for the Church came then to £700. The frame of a church that would hold 750 was being got ready. We are told that "members of Dissenting congregations are engaged in raising funds to support their forms of worship." A hope was expressed that parents in India would be induced to send children to school in that colony, having "congenial society," not to be had at Sydney or Hobart Town.

The second number, of Saturday, June 3rd, 1837, also of six pages, though of four columns each page, is stated to be printed and published by the Proprietors, Robert Thomas and Co., Hindley Street, Adelaide. The year's price was 26s. if called for; 30s. if delivered. Advertisements of eight lines were at 3s., with 2d. additional line.

The issue gave the names of the new streets, Government Proclamations, and the Adelaide Sales of 595 lots of land (323 South Adelaide, and 272 North) beyond the 437 preliminary sections sold in England. The South Australian Company, Mr. John Barton Hack, Mr. J. H. Fisher, Mr. E. Stephens, Mr. John White, Mr. O. Gilles were among the chief buyers. The total of the 595 realized £3,594; about £6 each as an average for the lot. The Installation of the Governor, the First Public Meeting, Judge Jeffcott's Charge to the Grand Jury, Mr. Edward Stephens on the Sea Shore for the Capital, with advertisements, fill the Paper.

The Editor's remarks contain an apology for delay: "After an interval of nearly twelve months, the second number of the *Australian Gazette* makes its appearance in its own country. The difficulties attendant upon the novelty of our situation, the disadvantages under which the mechanical part of our labours takes place, want of settlement, want of room, or perhaps want of use, will plead our apology should we not wear the same neat and becoming garb in which we made our *debüt* in the great emporium of arts and civilization. Every week will lessen these impediments.

"Whig, Tory, Conservative, Radical; we know no such distinction *here*. Our politics are nothing to each other; our *policy* is, or ought to be, the same. As the faithful journalist and chronicler of the proceedings of our great and spirited enterprise, every step in its progress will be hailed and recorded with exultation; the interests, worldly and spiritual, of the hundreds, civilized and barbarous, involved therein, will meet with zealous advocates in us, so far as our powers can be available to them; and without the Quixotic profession of redressing all wrongs, we glory in the enthusiasm which inspires us to stand forth as the champions of Justice."

The third issue appeared after five weeks (July 8th, 1837). As the second fell from eight to six pages, the third dropped to four. Toward the erection of a Wesleyan chapel, twenty-six persons subscribed £20. Churchmen made appeals on behalf of their hoped-for edifice. Land survey troubles occupy much space. A narration is given of an exploration of Kangaroo Island, in which two men lost their lives from exhaustion. Mr. Hutchinson told his tale of the ascent of Mount Lofty.

Three weeks passed before No. 4 came forth. Letters occupy half this Paper. The Editor mildly rebuked the Press in the other colonies for some unkind remarks, and said: "Such jealousy is surely unnecessary. Nothing but good can arise to the elder settlements by the establishment of our Province." The Financial Statement of the South Australian Commissioners occupies a quarter of the Paper.

No. 5 was out August 12th. Mr. T. B. Strangways had a letter therein. The *Gazette* now got into trouble through a correspondent's reflection upon Mr. Commissioner Fisher. All the officials declared the Paper unsatisfactory, and as having failed in its mission, saying that, "instead of an honest critique upon public measures, no number of the Paper has appeared in the colony without being distinguished by anonymous calumnies." They "consider it desirable that another journal should be established at the earliest possible period."

What said the Editor? "We continue doggedly in our resolution to set our face against all systems and degrees of jobbery, against puffing individuals under any disguise. We are as determined as ever to expose humbug wherever we find it. The gentlemen of the Other Journal, therefore, are right welcome to bring this Big Brother to South Australia as soon as possible."

A change in the Administration led to the following on October 14th: "In assuming the duties devolving upon us, the Editors of the *South Australian Gazette* can make no other profession than one which they feel must be satisfactory to every independent man in the colony—namely, that of following the course of policy traced out to them by their predecessor, which they now repeat in his own words: "We continue doggedly in that resolution to set our face against all systems and degrees of jobbery," &c.

The 8th number, of four pages, was on November 11th; the 9th on January 6th, 1838, followed by the 10th a fortnight after. The four pages of four columns are continued till February 23rd, 1839, when six commence, with frequent lapses to four. The eight-page Supplement of September 7th, 1839, is taken up with the case of G. M. Stephen v. The *Register*. The six pages are then pretty uniformly followed. In May, 1840, eight pages appear, with the price 1s.

The large size (22 by 16 inches), beginning Saturday, August 29th, 1840, had four pages, but of six columns each. Eight large pages came July 31st, 1841, though followed next week by six, and the week after by four. As the bad times deepened, it must have been hard for the publisher to keep up his four pages; or, rather, to get paid for them.

When the official mind was disturbed by articles in the *Gazette and Register* of October, 1837, and Mr. Gouger, the Colonial Secretary, with Mr. Fisher, Resident Commissioner, got up a party to establish an Opposition Press, the Paper made merry over the "Proposals for establishing a New Paper, to be called the *Silent Observer*, or the *Pork and Grindstone Gazette*. An offer had been made by the *Register* to print the new Paper at the Office on the lowest possible terms."

An appeal "To our Readers," November 14th, 1837, opens a fresh chapter of trial; "The late appearance of the *Gazette* has been occasioned by the misconduct of a journeyman printer, who has thought proper to desert his employment at the moment while engaged in the process of 'making up,' or arranging the types for the present number. There is a certain set who have not scorned to tamper in the most scandalous manner with our Printer's servant; but if they have succeeded in enticing him from his duty, they shall not escape the exposure which awaits them for their pitiful and disgraceful conduct."

The Colonial Commissioner, Mr. J. H. Fisher, wrote October 25th to demand the name of the correspondent—"Colonist"; adding: "If that information is withheld, I shall have no alternative but to take the necessary proceedings against you, as such printers, publishers and proprietors." In their reply, Messrs. Thomas and Co. expressed their determination to regard "the public conduct of public men open to the like honest and temperate criticism as yours has undergone." The readers of the *Gazette* are told: "The Resident Commissioner is welcome to take the course he thinks proper. We shall repel every attempt to gag the Press."

The *critique of the True Colonist* upon affairs was: "The good folks in power in the free Republic of South Australia appear to be a most unruly, quarrelsome sort of gentry, each one trying who shall be master."

From November 11th, 1837, to January 6th, 1838, the silence of the Press is thus accounted for: "The only apology we have to offer to our subscribers and friends for the long interval between the last and present publication is the fact already known to them of the absconding of a journeyman in the employment of our printers. The impossibility of supplying his place, and of publishing this journal, was no doubt calculated upon by the persons who enticed the young man from his engagement."

The Editors of the *Gazette*, on February 24th, 1838, address a letter to the Colonisation Commissioners of South Australia, complaining of the neglect of affairs, and that the principles of the Colony have not had fair play; saying: "The Resident Commissioner works in secret. For anything the settlers know to the contrary, your whole public business in the colony may be *thimble rig* and *hocus pocus*." The set were opposed to Governor Hindmarsh. The "Colonist" continued to bother Mr. Commissioner Fisher with awkward questions.

In April, 1838, it was announced that £120 had been subscribed towards the erection of a stone church, in the place of the framed one brought from England. Mr. Hawdon described then his overland journey with stock.

The Libel case of Fisher v. the *Gazette* came off in May, 1838, occupying twenty-two columns of the Paper, May 19th. While the verdict was Guilty, Mr. Fisher refused to answer a single question as to his public acts. A new trial was demanded, though Mr. Fisher wished the matter dropped. Two of the jury could not read. "Had such a jury," said the Editors, "been called upon to judge of the flavour of a cask of gin, or the worth of a team of bullocks, the matters might have been within their grasp."

The recall of the Governor called forth the *Gazette's* opinion that he had suffered at the hands of Messrs. Gouger and Fisher, he himself being popular in the colony. The angry discussion on the policy of the Commissioners filled the papers. The Advocate-General, Mr. George Milner Stephen, was declared Acting-Governor by Order, July 14th, 1838, Mr. T. B. Strangways being then Colonial Secretary in the place of Mr. Gouger. The Survey troubles led to the resignation of Surveyor-General Colonel Light.

The first meeting of Adelaide Catholics, to arrange for a Mission there, took place on October 8. The Rev. T. Q. Stowe was advertising the establishment of his school. In the Supplement for December 5th, G. M. Stephen appeared as Colonial Secretary. The Mechanics' Institute had then a library of 300 volumes.

On January 5th, 1839, this Notice was printed: "An attempt has been made by the proprietors of the Radical print to induce us to raise the price of the *Gazette* from the modest sum of sixpence to one shilling. Commercially speaking, the former sum does not remunerate us, and our paper from the commencement has never yet paid its own expense. But we shall nevertheless continue as we have begun. We have never yet read a mere newspaper that was worth more than sixpence."

Five Special Surveys, each of 4,000 acres at £1 per acre, are noticed, January 26th, 1839, and were favourably regarded by the Paper. Then came a Special Survey of 15,000 acres, on behalf of Mr. Flaxman; and other such surveys were contemplated.

Until then, 100 copies of the *Gazette* had been sent home to the Commissioners; but injury was done to it in articles and letters by its London rival, the *South Australian Record*. The latter paper was declared "not invariably to be trusted in its reports of our Colonial affairs, and that many letters appearing in the columns of that journal, professing to be written by individuals in the colony, are utterly repudiated by the alleged writers."

The Overland journey from the Murray to Adelaide by Mr. Eyre is reported March 2nd.

The *Port Lincoln Herald and South Australian Commercial Advertiser* was announced to begin on April 10th. It was not to mingle in political discussions, but the main object of the proprietors was "to promulgate just accounts of the capabilities of the only safe and commodious harbour yet known within the territories of South Australia." It was to be printed by Geo. Dehane, of Adelaide. The *Royal South Australian Almanack* was published at the *Gazette* office for 2s. 6d.

The "Adelaide Ladies' Company" wanted to have fifty gentlemen subscribers at £10 each—ladies free. "Profit and gain to be made by the sale of 300 *Numbered Cards*, of two guineas each, to be applied agreeably to a scheme entered in the Company's books, and to be viewed daily." There were then thirty-four public houses in Adelaide. The Native Question was much debated, in consequence of collisions with Overlanders.

Mr. Mengé, the geologist and mystic, wrote upon the colony's iron, April 20th, 1839. On June 27th, 1840, he sent to the Paper a list of 100 South Australian minerals, including some precious stones.

The Vicar-General, the Very Reverend Dr. Ullathorne, visited Adelaide in 1840. He subsequently became the Bishop of Birmingham.

The formidable issue of August 29th, 1840, six columns on a page, 22 inches in length, has 128 advertisements, the one of N. L. Kentish, Surveyor, consisting of 88 lines. *Our Readers* have this record placed before them:—

"In abandoning the neat and readable size in which the *Register* has hitherto been published, for the present, but to our mind, less convenient form, we have yielded less to the fashions of the day than to the necessity imposed upon us by the high price of labour—the change is strictly and exclusively typographical." The Paper first assumed the title only of *South Australian Register*, June 22nd, 1839.

A paragraph on the Adelaide Press, November 14th, 1840, ran thus: "We observe that orders have been given to Mr. Macdougall, printer of the *Southern Australian*, to pirate the property of the *South Australian Gazette*. Mr. Macdougall has accordingly published as nearly a *fac-simile* of that journal as his skill would permit, under the title of the *South Australian Government Gazette*. The quibble of the title will neither serve him nor his employer. The *South Australian Gazette* is the Government Gazette, the copyright of which, from its establishment, has belonged to Messrs. Robert Thomas and Co. As a proof of these facts, we refer to the IMPRINT, and to the circumstance that in all Acts of Council hitherto passed, official notices are directed to be made to the *South Australian Gazette*."

Several numbers of July, 1841, have articles upon South Australian geology from the pen of Mr. Mengé. The Voluntary Principle was debated by the Rev. T. Q. Stow at this period.

#### "THE SOUTHERN AUSTRALIAN."

This was the opposition Paper to the *Gazette*, being run chiefly by the official element displeased with the criticism of the original Press. According to Mr. James: "A new journal has been started in the Fisher (Resident Commissioner) interest, conducted as was stated, by Mr. Mann, and a person of the name of Macdougall; it seems a very poor affair." Mr. Fisher was joined by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Gouger, the Surveyor-General, Colonel Light, the Colonial Surgeon, the Advocate-General, and others, in considering it desirable that another Paper should be established.

To their displeasure at his unwillingness to give up the name of an anonymous writer, the *Gazette* Editor only said: "We continue doggedly in our resolution to set our face against all systems and degrees of jobbery, against puffing individuals under any disguise, or recording flummery speeches and trashy compliments. We are determined as ever to expose humbug wherever we find it; to keep a sharp look-out after the doings of every *Jack in Office*."

The first number of the *Southern Australian* made its appearance on Saturday morning, June 2nd, 1838. It was small in size, with four pages of four columns each, but a considerable amount of very small type. The price was sixpence. Advertisements paid 3s. 6d. for six lines, but 3d. a line extra, there being forty of them as a beginning. It was printed and published by Archibald Macdougall. The *Prospectus* was plain in stating:—

"Up to this time we have had no Free Press in the Colony. It will on all sides be admitted that one journal, devoted to sectional interests in the community, does not realise the idea entertained of a Free Press. The *Southern Australian*, having destroyed this monopoly, being conducted upon popular principles, and disdaining to make the discussion of those principles subordinate to the gratification of personal malignity, will at length give the community a Free Press. Security of person and property, the adoption of laws having this for their object, the realisation of the great scheme in which we are all embarked. These will be the objects to which the *Southern Australian* will direct its energies."

\* In the *Leader*, the Editor said of his Paper: "The name is a shibboleth. By it we are reminded of past principles and incited to fresh exertions. The zeal, the energy, the indomitable perseverance, the sacrifice of self, which characterised the exertions of that band of brethren, who first advocated and carried into practical effect the principles which the genius of a Wakefield evolved—these are vividly recalled by the sound."

"The true *Southern Australian* we hold to be one who will support the Charter of the Province in all its bearings, and who is ready, at any sacrifice, to defend its Palladium from attack. In our view, all beyond this circle are aliens. Avowing, as we thus do, our allegiance to a system, it would be absurd to profess in the same breath a cosmopolitan indifference, and to assert that we are 'open to all, and influenced by none.' On the contrary, our strength consists in our devotion to principles destined, we firmly believe, to act as a great moral lever, by which the lower classes of the Mother Country may be raised from a state of moral degradation, and elevated in the scale of human existence."

"At this early period of our Colonial history, two parties, singularly embittered in feeling, and utterly opposed in opinion and policy, exist in South Australia. As journalists it is our duty to trace back the streams of those waters of bitterness, by which we are surrounded, to their very fount and origin."

In that first number, the recall of the Governor is thus noted: "His appointment must have taken place when some malignant star was in the ascendant." After reference to the London *South Australian Record*, we read: "Upwards of twenty vessels, of more than 6,300 tonnage, have conveyed out about 2,000 souls"—to Adelaide.

June 16th stated: "Two or three Van Diemonians lately have been hoaxing our friends at Port Phillip and Launceston with the most ridiculous reports of the badness of the soil in South Australia." Mr. G. M. Stephen, who had married Governor Hindmarsh's daughter, and was made Advocate-General, was nominated Acting-Governor on His Excellency's departure, and thus became a striking object for opposition arrows. His address was styled by the Paper, "a most dismal, lugubrious, and distorted statement of the affairs of the colony."

On August 4th, it is recorded, "*Onkaparinga Jack's* communication relative to the threatened burning down of the printer's residence and printing office of the proprietor of this journal is too lengthy for insertion. We thank him for his kind offer of protection. Our printer's devil has prepared the antidote recommended."

A severe leader appeared October 6th, on "The character of the *South Australian Gazette* and its Editor, Mr. Stevenson." That number had 55 advertisements. The second shipment of wool was made on October 11th, 1838. The Paper was enlarged January 9th, 1839, to four pages of five columns each.

Of the *Gazette*, the number for February 20th remarked, that it was "fast verging towards second childhood." Again, "The Governor's Paper, in copying our shipping announcements, had better do so properly." And "The Governor's scribbler has shown that he is paid to keep silence as well as to bark."

It notes on April 10th, 1830, a printing difference in Van Diemen's land; saying: "There the *Government Gazette* is a separate and distinct publication, containing only the official notices and advertisements. Here, the official *Gazette* forms part of a private journal, the sentiments of which accord with the views and wishes of our rulers, and however repugnant they may be to the general feeling of the public mind, yet as the *Gazette* must be bought for the sake of the public notices, so are the public compelled to take along with it the trash of the Government puffer."

May 15th recorded: "The first number of a paper called the *Egotist* has been sent to us. Of the advertisement we could make nothing, and that is just what we make of the paper itself. The *Egotist* is now before us, and if the incoherent jumble has a likeness to anything in art or nature, it resembles an Irish stew, Charles Smith and Port Lincoln being the chief ingredients." The advertisement ran thus: "The *Egotist*. On Saturday morning, May 11th, will be published the first number of this Paper. A journal which will make its appearance twice a week as long as necessary, and no longer. The whole of the profits to be given to the charities in equal proportions between Adelaide and Port Lincoln."

The notice on June 26th was: "The necessity of increasing the price of the *Southern Australian*. We think they (the public) will admit that the present price (sixpence) of the Paper bears no proportion to the cost of other commodities, including those necessary for the production of a newspaper. The number for next Wednesday, the third of July, on which day the new quarter's subscription will commence, will be published at one shilling."

There were 93 advertisements, August 14th, 1830. The death of Colonel Light was reported October 9th. The paper for November 27th notes a marriage by the Presbyterian minister, Mr. Drummond; observing, that it was "the first time any other minister than an Episcopalian has ventured in this colony to unite persons in matrimony."

The day of publication was changed in December from Wednesday to Thursday. On December 26th the writer exclaims: "How dreadful to think of Christmas cheer in an atmosphere of boiling intensity!"

Early in January, 1840, reviewing Capper's "South Australian," that work was condemned for saying that the climate was "particularly favourable to children, not *one* of those diseases to which they are subject in England being at all known there."

The first issue in 1840 was of four pages, with two extra as the supplement, and having 148 advertisements. Noticing the new Adelaide Almanack, it is said: "Here we are, in a colony only three years old, in the remotest region of the earth, not with a barbarous counterpart of Francis Moore on our table, but with an almanack which would do credit to any English publisher."

In a fresh literary notice, it is remarked that Mr. Capper, being in the London office of the colony, ought to know the state of affairs; but adds: "On the other hand, he could not hold his situation, and write with perfect freedom."

Of the work on the colony by Horton James, we read: "His characteristics are inconsistency and frivolity. No reasonable person would be swayed by his remarks either one way or the other. Hardly any writer on South Australia who does not seem to think in fetters."

A Panama Isthmus canal is alluded to in February, it being known that the New Granada Republic had, in 1836, made a concession for it to Colonel Biddle, and then to Saloman and Co. The canal was to charge a duty of one per cent., and the company were to surrender it to Government after fifty years. It was stipulated that the navigation of the Chagres River was not to be interrupted.

In February appeared the prospectus of "Australian Melodies, by a Voice from the Bush." The price was to be thirty shillings for a set of twelve melodies. Subscribers who kindly anticipate by their orders, would have it at half price. "In the present state of the printing business," said the advertisers of the first part, "it is impossible to name with certainty, as one might in England, the day on which the second part will be out."

The publisher had an apology on April 9th: "Circumstances, over which we had no control, prevent us from bringing out our Paper in its usual form to-day."

On May 7th was this notice: "To our readers. In future the *South Australian* will be published on Tuesdays and Fridays, and not as heretofore, on Thursdays only. Subscribers will henceforth receive two copies of this journal a week, but no additional charge will be made. The charge of a shilling a copy will be reduced to sixpence." The first Tuesday had four pages and eighty-five advertisements.

A reference to New Zealand occurred July 10th:—

"We learn that a company has been formed at Havre for the purpose of colonizing New Zealand. The company has obtained from the French Government a sum of money to enable them to carry out the project, on condition of a fifth part of the land, acquired by the cession of the native chiefs, being reserved as a penal settlement."

Some press errors gave rise to to this comment on August 11th: "We are indebted to the *Register* for the correction of an error which, from the carelessness of one of our compositors, appeared in our last. The *Register*, perhaps, will excuse our officiousness in rendering him a similar service. In setting up Mr. Eyre's letter to the Chairman of the Northern Exploration Committee, we had the curiosity to compare by 'copy' with the letter as it appeared in the columns of the *Register*, and marked no less than thirty misprints in the margin."

On January 1st, 1841, were six pages, five columns each. The issue before had four pages, the one after had five. On July 2nd there was the advertisement of the *South Australian Magazine*, which would give for two shillings 32 pages of general matter, with an addition of eight pages as the *Temperance Advocate*. It stated: "The plan upon which it is proposed to conduct the *South Australian Magazine* is to make it the repository of whatever is valuable in the history and progress of the colony, interspersing matters of grave and more permanent interest, with such light and sketchy articles upon colonial manners, colonial habits, and colonial scenery, as the peculiar talents of the various contributors may enable them to supply." It was to be the aim of the Editor "to elevate the tone of moral sentiment," so as to "lead to the formation of an estimate of Divine Providence."

The *South Australian Newsletter* was advertised early in December, 1841, as a sixpenny production, edited by James Allen, Esq., and to go as a newspaper. It was to be devoted exclusively

to the statistics of the Province. Further: "The *South Australian Newsletter* is printed on folio bookpost paper, that is, twice the size of large letter paper, and contains nine columns of closely printed matter, most of it in a tabular form, exhibiting very important results. A whole page and a half of the large letter size is left unprinted upon in the *Newsletter*, for the purpose of private correspondence."

The *South Australian* was subsequently in the joint hands of Mr. McDougal and Mr. Andrew Murray. The last-named gentleman was afterwards a valued member of the Victorian Press, and an enthusiast upon the culture of the grape.

#### PORT LINCOLN PRESS.

As in the early times, Port Lincoln was expected to be the capital of South Australia, having the only good harbour, purchasers of land there did their utmost to bring the place into notice; the establishment of a local Paper being one of the means employed.

The *Port Lincoln Herald* and *South Australian Colonial Advertiser*, began April 10th, 1839. This sixpenny periodical—not regular in its appearance—was printed for the proprietors, Robert Thomas and Co., Hindley Street, Adelaide, but published by George Dehane, at Adelaide, and by Charles Smith and Co., Victoria Wharf, Port Lincoln. It was to be 2s. a year, if called for, but 30s. if delivered. The paper was twenty inches by ten, four pages of four columns.

Colonists were assured that "the establishment of the Commercial Emporium of South Australia, at Port Lincoln, renders the immediate publication of a newspaper important." The first number had thirty-two advertisements. There is much concerning Port Lincoln. Mr. Edward Henty, we are told, had been at, and near, the place for upwards of six months, and the first magistrate had just sworn in two constables. Then comes the following:—

"On the 27th day of February last, a Special Survey of 15,000 acres of the land adjoining Boston Bay, in Port Lincoln, was demanded, paid for, and obtained; and at the moment we write, on the 10th day of April following, there are nearly three hundred souls, either located on the spot, or embarking, or on their passage to it. Thus, within the brief space of six weeks, has a settlement been organized and established, with every reasonable prospect of steady, healthful progression, and, in due time, of triumphant prosperity."

A warning came from the *South Australian*: "Our Port Lincoln friends must pardon us for giving them a few seasonable hints. To succeed, and to take a permanent hold on the public mind, they must avoid two things—the undue puffing of their own advantages, and unseasonable attack of their neighbours" in Adelaide.

A *Chronicle*, in July, 1840, describes the *Port Lincoln Herald* as coming out occasionally.

The *ADÉLAIDE GUARDIAN* dates from 1839, the first number being in July. It was published by W. C. Cox and Co., when transferred from Mr. Geo. Milner Stephen, though drifting into the weekly *Adelaide Chronicle* at the close of the year. Published at sixpence, there were four small, but rather long pages, showing fifty-six advertisements.

The *Port Phillip Gazette* thus saluted it: "Its appearance is decidedly superior to the other journals, and its literary contents, from the moderate principles inculcated by these guarantee its future ascendancy in all themes of social, religious, and political discussion. Our DEAR friend of the *Register* waxeth wroth on the pain his vanity and egotism receive from the searching probe we apply to his silly notices of the province of Eldorado."

The British Museum possesses the eighth number of the *Guardian*.

The *ADÉLAIDE OBSERVER* appeared in 1843, as a sixpenny weekly. In commencing the year 1846 with its 132nd number, it exhibited eight pages, of three columns each, 18 inches by 11. The proprietor, Mr. John Stephens, was editor, printer and publisher. There were but fifteen advertisements, including one of Morison's Pills, besides Government Notices. Much space was devoted to Agriculture and Horticulture, with one page of "Gleanings for the Young."

The Editor, then rejoicing in renewed Colonial prosperity, was proud to say, "we ventured to predict that the year 1845 would be accompanied by a high degree of prosperity and general advancement in South Australia." Mines had opened, farms were paying, the revenue was growing, and confidence reigned.

The *Odd Fellows' Magazine* was reviewed. A long article pertained to "Religion in South Australia." Poetry and literary selections accompany details of the meetings of lodges.

The *Observer* for January 10th, records the opening of three new chapels in one day. Father Matthew was recorded to have, on one day, given the pledge to 80,000 persons at an Irish village. Portraits were then taken in Adelaide by Daguerreotype. Few colonial papers have afforded so much scientific information as this one. A literary aspirant sent the following to the *Observer*: "Sir, as you are a printer and publisher, I trust you will excuse the Liberty I have taken, to inform you "that I have lately composed and written notes on 4 very Large and amusing tales. 2 of my tales if printed "would make 2 Books as Large as Cooper's Pilot" and my other 2 tales would make 4 Books as large as Cooper's Pilot." Now, Sir, you been a Publisher as well as printer, I wish to sell you Copeys of those tales of mine for you to print, I wish to know and therefore Beg of you to inform me "what you would give me for a Coppy of those tales, as I have informed you of what there Sise would be if printed. I have been informed that the general way is to put into the printers hands tales Like mine and Let the printers make and Sell as many Books as they can. and after been paid for there labour to give the rest to the Auther" But I have no wish to do so. I would that you Should purchase from me a Coppy and give me for what it is worth" &c.—It is as much as 8 years ago since, Last I saw the *South Australian Magazine*, so that I scarily know whats printed in them."

The *Observer* of June 20th, 1846, came out with twelve pages, or thirty-six columns. The Editor took occasion to remark upon that issue closing the third year of the Paper's existence, and informing the public that 600 copies were printed weekly. He thought the colonists would not "fall to confess some indebtedness to the Press."

"We have ever," said he, "regarded newspaper literature as having similar attributes and duties near akin to scenic representation, and if before 'holding the mirror up to Nature,' we have dressed the Colonial 'Dame Nature' in a too captivating garb, we can only plead extreme fondness and unconquerable predilection as our excuse."

The eight pages continued to be the rule. The number January 2nd, 1847, could boast of thirty-eight advertisements; that of December 25th, over its eight pages, had fifty. The Publisher, therefore, was able to announce "that the progressive increase of this weekly journal since its establishment in 1843, and the evident bias of the public mind in favour of the broad sheet, have



induced the proprietor to determine on issuing it in an enlarged form on and after Saturday next, the 1st January, 1848." The increase was to be at least equal to three columns of its enlarged size. That was to be 22½ by 17½. But on January 8th, 1855, this was extended to 26½ by 19½, eight pages of eight columns each.

The ADELAIDE TIMES was late in the field for the early days, the first number coming October 2nd, 1848. Of four pages, six columns each, the Paper was 22½ by 17 inches in size, alternating at irregular intervals with 24½ by 18. It was published on Mondays, at sixpence. Advertisements were three shillings the first inch, and one shilling for an additional inch. The first number had ninety-three advertisements.

It was printed and published for the sole proprietor, the Rev. James Allen, Pastor of a Baptist Church, a man of vigorous intellect, scholarly parts, and impassioned energy.

"The plan upon which," said Mr. Allen, "it is proposed to conduct the *Adelaide Times*, is that of making it a thoroughly Commercial Paper." It was "to secure for the colony, as far as possible, constant accessions of virtuous and industrious emigrants—to further all sound educational and religious projects—to advocate the removal of all unnecessary restriction on colonial trade, and to repeat all unjust or slanderous misrepresentation of the enemies of the colony."

The first "Leader" showed the style intended for the Paper, as an extract may illustrate: "And who are the Colonization Commissioners—this august body, farcically yclept 'Her Majesty's Land and Emigration Board,' who thus take upon themselves, through the intervention of their provincial funkies, to impede, and thwart, and overthrow plans for the increase of our colonial population, by attempting, at the risk of the utterance of positive falsehood, to turn the tide of emigration from this to other shores?—a viler abortion never existed! The thing itself is a perfect farce, and deserves to be universally scouted."

The *Adelaide Miscellany* of useful and entertaining knowledge had just issued a monthly shilling part, though a weekly issue was to be had for threepence. The conductor announced his intention to carry on the undertaking for a year, "though it should involve considerable pecuniary loss." The proprietor was Mr. John Stephens.

*Allen's Adelaide News Letter* was to appear on the following 1st of December. This had been carried on from 1841 to 1845 as the *South Australian News Letter*.

The Mines, especially the Burra Burra Copper Mine, came prominently forward. The shipping News is very complete. The doings of the recently arrived Protestant and Catholic Bishops are duly chronicled, and religious intelligence is carefully given.

On Christmas Day it was announced that the Paper would be enlarged in January by the addition of ten columns of letterpress, at no additional charge. The four pages were larger, and had seven columns instead of six. A smaller sized material had to do service at times with the seven columns. With January 1850, the *Times* appeared on Thursdays and Mondays. April saw the Paper a daily. In May, 1852, the era of the *rush* from Adelaide to the Victorian diggings, the issues were on the 1st, 5th, 8th, 12th, &c., instead of daily. But the enterprising Proprietor, to retain his customers, sent his son to start an *Adelaide Times* Office, at Forest Creek Diggings, where a goodly number of his Papers found a ready sale among the roaming miners from South Australia.

It was in October, 1839, that there was produced in London the sixpenny *South Australian Miscellany and New Zealand Review*. "Our object," said the Editor, "is to disseminate as widely as possible intelligence received from, and connected with, Australia and New Zealand, for the use of those who have not the means or the facilities of meeting with authenticated reports of whatever is taking place in those new and promising colonies."

The ADELAIDE INDEPENDENT arose amidst the commercial gloom of 1841. The position must have been depressing indeed when the writer, in October, should recommend the colonists to "petition the Queen to send us a ship to fetch all the survivors of us from this detestable place—a boat will almost be big enough, so reduced are we from eating up one another, because there is no other victuals."

Dutton's "South Australia and its Mines," 1846, observed: "English readers might easily wonder what material there can be in the colony to support three, if not four, newspapers, for a fourth has lately been started by Mr. George Stevenson, the former proprietor and talented editor of the *Register*."

DIE DEUTSCHE POST supplied the Adelaide German immigrants with news. The eleventh number only is preserved in the British Museum, dated March 18th, 1848. There were four pages, four columns each, alternately English and German. It was printed and published every Thursday by the proprietor, C. Ker. The advertisements, eighteen in number, were charged half-a-crown for eight lines, with twopence an extra line. Mengé, the geologist and dreamer, occupies the place of honour in this Paper, and an interesting tale is given of his career from 1806, with the sad narrative of his troubles and hardships in South Australia.

The advance in 1849-50 of the Press may be seen from the record in Chauncey's "Guide to South Australia" of that date, which remarked: "There are seven or eight newspapers published in the colony—viz., one daily, the *South Australian*, and the *South Australian Register*, twice a week, and the *Adelaide Observer*, the *Government Gazette*, the *South Australian Gazette and Mining Journal*, the *Australian German Post*, &c., each once a week." †

They who desire later information of the South Australian Press may consult Gill's "Bibliography of South Australia."

## EARLY STRUGGLES OF THE QUEENSLAND PRESS.

Though a settlement from Sydney was established on the banks of the Brisbane before any European was resident in Adelaide, Perth, or Melbourne, yet the District of Moreton Bay, as it was called, was not opened to free people till about 1840. So far towards the tropics, and with an ill, though unfounded, reputation for insalubrity, the place was not likely to draw emigrants from the more attractive Sydney, Port Phillip, and South Australia.

That which brought the locality into favour was the pasturage of the Darling Downs, to which squatters went in 1842, as well as to the glorious country afterwards opened up by the explorers Leichhardt and Mitchell. A few men gathered in Brisbane and Ipswich, but merely as suppliers of stores, or as agents for wool to those up the country. The bush life, especially in olden times, was not favourable to Press enterprise, which has ever had to look for its main support to towns.

When Moreton Bay ceased to be the penal settlement of New South Wales proper, and the mass of prisoners were withdrawn to Sydney, there were in that year (1841) but 176 males and 24 females, 28 of the whole being children. Only 17 of the 200 were owners of any land, only 23 were colonial born, and but 13 women were wives, though there were 176 males. Such a population would hardly be thought promising by the most speculative of printers.

Brisbane was not the liveliest of townships. An official, posted there, exclaimed, "How could I have passed the time had it not been for the rum bottle!" Others thought the same, and practised assiduously the handling of rum bottles.

Even in 1844 the County Stanley, about the Brisbane river, had but 181 free persons and 26 bond; while the Darling Downs, or country part, had 290 free and 45 bond. But the pastoral progress was great, there being then 13,295 cattle and 184,651 sheep in that Northern District. Cultivation, particularly of cotton, made a beginning in that year or the next. Though the sugar cane and tobacco plant were early exhibited, a proclamation from Sydney, in 1829, prohibited their culture.

And yet, under such unpromising conditions, with so few possible readers, and those scattered sparsely about in the wilderness, a bold man was found, in 1846, to start the *Courier* in Brisbane. Let us look at the printer's prospect of a living.

All over the Moreton Bay District, including the Darling Downs sheep country, there were 1,088 males of all ages, and 519 females, besides a remnant of 260 in a penal condition. Of the adult population, 237 men and 46 women were unable to read a newspaper. In the whole country there were but 41 houses of brick or stone, and 230 of wood. Whence would the printer hope to get subscribers for his paper? Still he made the venture. What could have prompted him to do so? Two classes he had to look for—advertisers and subscribers. Tradesmen seeking sales of goods would mainly form the first; the last must be hunted after in the bush and feeble townships. The present could not possibly bring much grist to the mill; he must, therefore, have hoped in a future.

A night of social gloom had been succeeded by a lengthened, struggling dawn, which might eventually introduce a brighter sky. Signs of coming day were apparent. The country was fair and fertile; flocks and herds were fast increasing; forests of fine timber were promising. If only men and money were forthcoming, advertisers and subscribers would hurry up. The sanguine printer was sure that such marvellous resources would soon bring capitalists from Sydney, who would draw workers and industries after them. The country only wanted really to be known in order to develop a population.

That same year (1846) was the trumpet note of future success. A German naturalist, one Leichhardt, after some bush wanderings, had extended his rambles, and told the newspaper of Sydney how wonderful in fertility and salubrity was that northern land. As the news spread, adventurers made their way up with lowing and bleating companions, while trading souls brought up supplies from Sydney to the Brisbane port.

Government zeal was awakened to search out the wealth of the district, and the Surveyor-General (Mitchell) was sent thither exploring. His revelations, that year of 1846, like those of Dr. Leichhardt, produced a wonderful impression, and led a number of fortune-seekers to Moreton Bay.

But that year was memorable for the attempt to establish the qualified penal colony of "North Australia." The prime mover was Mr. Gladstone, then the Colonial Minister of a Tory Cabinet, who sought to do this grievous wrong to the Australians for the especial benefit of ticket-of-leave men in England and Tasmania. In his dispatch to the Governor, April 30th, 1846, Mr. Gladstone declared this resuscitation of transportation "favourable to the material fortunes of New South Wales, and unattended with injury to its higher interests."

Moralists and legislators strenuously opposed the project; but the squatters, tormented for the want of hands, and the printer, longing for more prospective subscribers, were jubilant at the prospect. The colonial people, however, were indignant at this fresh invasion of crime; yet the policy was not reversed till the Liberal Ministry came in, and Earl Grey could write out in September that the Government "abandon the design entertained by Lord Stanley, and carried into effect by Mr. Gladstone."

The officials at Gladstone, the capital of North Australia, had to return to Sydney, and £13,000 was spent in vain. But the whole movement, commencing in January, called attention to the Brisbane settlement, and so furnished to the enterprising originator of the *Courier* both subscribers and advertisers. Still, the immigration was mainly of the male sex. Though, in 1847, both sides of the Barwon were settled by pastoralists for 300 miles, not a single woman was to be found there. When Leichhardt wrote his letter to the *Courier*, in August of that year, from the north of Darling Downs, he was opening up a new country for the Press not less than for sheep masters.

It was, too, in 1846 that a strong effort was made to get the British Government to grant a charter for a New Hebrides trading and agricultural company. Had that been granted, the *Courier* foresaw a good time coming for the Port of Brisbane and the interests of struggling local literature.

The Rev. Dr. Lang, himself a power in the Press circle, did more for the Moreton Bay District than all others of his time. From 1846 he was indefatigable in exertions for the occupation of that fine region. He wrote, he lectured, he memorialised for its advantage. His zeal in promoting the cotton cultivation there was the means of many emigrants going out from England and Scotland. The *Bangalore* arrived in the Brisbane with 300 in 1850.

Meanwhile, stock increased. In 1859 there were 300,000 head of cattle and 2,000,000 of sheep; but the population over that wide district consisted only of 13,854 males and 9,666 females. If, then, it

were thought that the *Courier* could have made more headway, it must not be forgotten that many of these 15,000 males were children and roaming shepherds, not likely to be supporters of the infant Press.

When Moreton Bay District became the Colony of Queensland, the whole church and chapel attendance stood thus: Wesleyan, 875; Roman Catholic, 745; Church of England, 643; Presbyterian, 460; Baptist, 325; Congregationalist, 250; Lutheran, 230. Upon the adult men of these the *Courier* printer had mainly to depend for support.

Dr. Lang's "Queensland," published in 1861, said: "There are two newspapers, besides the *Government Gazette*, published in Brisbane—the *Moreton Bay Courier* and the *Queensland Guardian*, the former published thrice, and the latter twice a week. They have both occasionally exhibited superior ability." In Ipswich there were two newspapers—the *Ipswich Herald* and the *North Australian*."

Mr. Pugh, the veteran exponent of the Queensland Press, in his early "Brief Outline of Queensland" (1861), wrote: "The 'fourth estate' is represented in Queensland by six newspapers at present, but we expect to see the number increased, before many months have elapsed, by the establishment of other 'organs of public opinion.' Those already in existence are distributed as follows:—Brisbane has two, the *Moreton Bay Courier*, the oldest and leading journal of the colony, published three times a week; and the *Queensland Guardian*, recently established, published twice a week. Ipswich publishes two journals, the *North Australian* and the *Ipswich Herald*, both issuing twice a week. In Drayton there is a weekly Paper called the *Darling Downs Gazette*, and another weekly at Maryborough, styled the *Maryborough Chronicle*. These newspapers each enjoy a fair share of public support, and they all subscribe to the popular doctrine of Liberalism."

The Ipswich *North Australian* dates from October, 1855. Mr. Eagar, the humorous writer, led the *Courier* from 1848 to 1856. The *Queensland Times* of Ipswich was from 1859, and the *Maryborough Chronicle* from 1860. The *Darling Downs Gazette* made its entrance in 1858, but the *Toowoomba Chronicle* in July, 1861. Rockhampton had its *Bulletin* in July, 1861, and its *Northern Argus* in 1863, which latter became a daily in 1865. The *Queenslander* saw the light in 1866, the *Telegraph* in 1872; the evening *Observer* followed, and the *Punch* brought up the rear in 1878.

It is not a little remarkable that no copy of the *Moreton Bay Courier* should be found in the library of the Colonial Office, at the State Records Office, at the Agent-General's Office, nor even in the British Museum.

#### "THE MORETON BAY COURIER."

In Coote's "History of Queensland," a judicious and painstaking work, of which the second volume, long promised, is not yet forthcoming, is an interesting story of the *Moreton Bay Courier*, the ancestor of the present well-known and valued *Brisbane Courier*.

The press was there coeval with the establishment of Government; for surely the first presence of a Collector of Customs must mean the commencement of any civilised rule. Both the Paper and the Customs came into existence in June, 1846. Mr. Coote wrote thus:—

"For some time Mr. Arthur Sydney Lyon, a gentleman of good education, indomitable energy, and respectable connections, had contemplated a newspaper in Moreton Bay. The want of such a convenience was beginning to be felt, inasmuch as, save in official reports, or infrequent private correspondence, the conditions, wants, and resources of the District were almost unnoticed in the parent colony, while its very existence was tacitly ignored or forgotten in the more distant ones.

"Many of the residents, who had been accustomed elsewhere to the advantage which a public journal affords, began to talk of its necessity, and an active canvass for subscribers resulted in such encouragement to Mr. Lyon, that he entered into arrangements with Mr. James Swan, a printer, resident at that time in Sydney, for the printing and publication of the proposed newspaper. The inducements held out by him, however, seemed to Mr. Swan, when he arrived, little likely to be realised. There were but few houses in Brisbane, and the streets existed only in name. But the assurances of the settlers calmed his apprehensions. He was told that the interior would afford advertisements, subscribers, and cash.

"By degrees, the faith necessary to enterprise was instilled into him, and the *Moreton Bay Courier* commenced its existence on June 20th, 1846.

"It was a modest weekly sheet of four pages, about half the size of an ordinary newspaper, and was printed in the garret of a brick building, afterwards occupied as an inn, and since burned down, at the north-west corner of Queen and Albert Streets, Brisbane. From such a small beginning it has grown with the growth of the colony into a valuable and important property, and, in connection with the *Queenslander*, its worthy accompaniment, continues to hold what Johnson would have called a considerable position amongst the colonial press.

"The motto chosen by the editor was—'I am in the place where I am demanded of conscience to speak the truth;' and in his first leading article he became somewhat grandiloquent, saying, 'The *Courier* has been established in compliance with the almost unanimous wish of every resident of character, property, and intelligence in this extensive District. The unfounded impressions that prevail elsewhere respecting the climate, capabilities, and resources of this portion of the colony, and the absence of those beneficial moral influences which have their origin in the press, have long rendered a local journal necessary. The commercial importance of the community indeed demands its introduction. Churches, schools, stores, shops, inns, dwelling-houses, and erections for various purposes have rapidly risen; settlements have become villages—villages, towns. Our staple articles of export, wool and tallow, have strikingly increased; and with their increase fresh incitement has been afforded to industry and enterprise. And, as the position of the grazing and trading classes, who form the bulk of our infant society, has improved, and population has augmented, prosperity has educated requirements that can only appertain to an advanced state of society. Perhaps none is so urgent as that which we aim to supply.'

Elsewhere Mr. Coote describes the press just before Moreton Bay District became the colony of Queensland. Of newspapers, said he: "There was only one in Brisbane—the old *Courier*—whose politics at the time were professedly Liberal, which meant anti-squatting, in the District, and of the Manchester school in other respects. It neither meddled, nor assumed to meddle, with literature, properly so called; and as to ecclesiastical matters, seemed to have inherited the feelings prevalent when

'Oyster women locked their fish up,  
And trudged away to cry, "No bishop.'

The *North Australian*, at Ipswich, fierce in defence of its own town, and defiant of opposition, was, nevertheless menaced by the rivalry of the *Herald*, in the formation of which Mr. Macalister and some pastoral friends took a leading part; and at Drayton the *Darling Downs Gazette* sneered at the shopkeepers below the range, and advocated the claims of the squatters. The principal peculiarity attached to this last journal at the time was the curious nature of its accommodation—a wooden shanty elevated on some piles, apart from the few houses in the place, and where the music of the waving trees, and the trickling waters of a creek below, were favourable to meditation, if not to comfort."

By favour of H. C. Buzacott, Esq., one of the most enterprising and successful veterans of the Australian Press, we are able to present the following memo. :-

"The *Moreton Bay Courier* was established in 1846, the first issue being published at Brisbane on 20th June, 1846. The nominal proprietor was a Mr. Lyons, but the real owner was Mr. James Swan, now a member of the Legislative Council of the Colony—a practical printer, to whom the presses and types belonged. The paper was then printed on a demy sheet, and comprised only 4pp. folio. Its introductory leading article was, however, of the full regulation length, and was as ambitious and controversial in tone as might be expected from so diminutive an 'organ of public opinion' in a newly-formed community:-

"After conducting his paper with some success for about fifteen years, Mr. Swan disposed of the property to a well-known colonist of democratic aspirations—Mr. T. B. Stephens, for many years a leading member of the Legislative Assembly, and more than once a Minister of the Crown. In 1861, two years after the erection of the Moreton Bay and other Northern districts into the separate colony of Queensland, the *Courier* was issued as a daily morning paper of 4pp., *Times* size. The title was also altered some years later to the *Brisbane Courier*. An uncompromising advocate of the then 'Liberal Party,' and strong opponent of squatting supremacy, the *Courier* soon provoked opposition, and the Queensland *Guardian* for several years became its formidable rival. Ultimately the struggle ended in a coalition proprietary, in which Mr. Stephens held the largest share. The *Guardian* was absorbed, and for several years, from 1868 till 1873, the *Courier* was carried on under the management of Mr. Stephens, but controlled by a board of directors composed of several antagonistic politicians. The results were not satisfactory, and in the latter part of 1873 the Company could agree to nothing but the sale of the *Courier* property, with its weekly broad-sheet, the *Queenslander*, by public auction. It was bought for the sum of £13,600 by one of the directors, and within a day or two afterwards resold by him at an advance of £2,000 to Messrs. Cresley Lukin, E. I. C. Browne, and W. Thornton (whose interest was shared privately by Mr. Robert Little). In November, 1873, Mr. Lukin assumed the management as Director of the Brisbane Newspaper Company, Limited, and for seven years conducted the *Courier* on non-party lines, devoting most of his attention, however, to the improvement of the *Queenslander*, which he succeeded in making one of the best and most influential weekly journals in the Southern Hemisphere. During this Septennial period, however, the *Courier* scarcely held its own as the leading journal of the colony; its circulation being limited by its high price and conservative management in a business aspect. In December, 1880, Mr. Lukin having disposed of his interest in the Company, and resigned his managership, his place was taken by Mr. C. Hardie Buzacott who resigned his position as Postmaster-General to acquire one-third interest in the Company, and who had already proved his journalistic capacity in smaller undertakings, as founder of the *Maryborough Chronicle*; the *Peak Downs Telegram*; and the *Capricornian*, the weekly journal attached to the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin*, of which Mr. Buzacott was then sole proprietor. Under the new management, the *Courier* soon made rapid progress. Within two years its price had been reduced to two-pence, and its size increased to 8pp., smaller type also being used in advertisements, and new premises erected in Queen Street, where the business of the Company could be conducted to better advantage. In 1883, the *Daily Observer*, the Brisbane organ and property of the then Ministry, came to grief, was offered at public auction, and was bought for £1,010 by Mr. Buzacott on behalf of his Company, with the intention to utilise the machinery and plant in the production of his Company's journals. Ascertaining from the books, however, the cash income of the *Observer* for the previous twelve months, Mr. Buzacott determined to carry it on as an evening penny paper, and a few months afterwards he doubled its size. Although at first stigmatised as the evening edition of the *Courier*, the paper made rapid progress, and has, in respect to circulation, taken the lead of all its contemporaries. In 1884 the new premises having become too small, Mr. Buzacott purchased one of the four best corner lots in the city of Brisbane, on which to erect new offices, at the then unprecedented price of £40,000 for less than a quarter of an acre of land, but a corner site having 210 feet frontage to the two principal business streets of the city and 82 feet to a lane at the rear. Within two and a half years—or in May, 1887—the *Courier*, *Queenslander* and the *Evening Observer* were produced in the new buildings upon a pair of Hoe's stereotype printing and folding machines at a speed of 10,000 copies per hour each machine. The new building is the largest and finest newspaper office in the Southern Hemisphere, having eight floors, each containing 10,000 feet of floor space, and having an elevation of about 120 feet from the floor of the lower basement to the top of the parapet. About two-thirds of the building is let to tenants, and on the first floor is a public hall seated for 1,000 persons. It has two large hydraulic lifts, and the whole building is lit by 800 incandescent electric lights. The machinery is all in the sub-basement, an apartment 29 feet below the street level and thoroughly fireproof, being constructed solidly of concrete, with arched ceiling, having a height 14 feet 6 inches above the lower basement floor. The cost of this building, with land, has been over £106,000, and it is one of the most striking objects in the city of Brisbane. In these fine premises the Brisbane Newspaper Company's journals, with their ever-increasing staff of editors, reporters, clerks, and printers, are commodiously and comfortably housed, and—what was the chief object of the management—have room for indefinite expansion. The erection of this fine structure, combined with vigorous and liberal management, has given to the Brisbane Newspaper Company a unique position among the newspaper proprietaries of Australia, and the influence of their journals upon the rapidly advancing colony of Queensland is, of course, very great. Independent of all political parties, and while plain spoken and moderate in their utterances, these journals enjoy public confidence to an extent that must be a gratifying reward to their proprietors.

"The Brisbane Newspaper Company is now a limited liability of £150,000 in 150 £1,000 shares, which are all, with the exception of two, held by three families, or their legal representatives."

We have also to thank Mr. Buzacott for a copy of the first leading article in the *Courier* of June 20th, 1846, from which we give the following extracts:-

"The *Courier* has been established in compliance with the almost unanimous wish of every resi-

dent of character, property, and intelligence in this extensive district. The unfounded impressions that prevail elsewhere respecting the climate, capabilities, and resources of this portion of the colony, and the absence of those beneficial moral influences which have their origin in the press, have long rendered a local journal necessary. The commercial importance of the community, indeed, demand its introduction. Our staple articles of export, wool and fallow, have strikingly increased, and with their increase fresh incitement has been afforded to industry and enterprise.

"We commence our labours at a crisis highly interesting and important. Our home and colonial dynasties are happily changed. The weight of tyranny, misrepresentation, and neglect, under which the colonists have long, bitterly, and unceasingly complained, is about to be removed. Mr. Gladstone promises to administer the affairs of the Colonial Office in a widely different manner from that in which they have been hitherto conducted. Sir Charles Fitzroy has also been tried and proved, and on his own coadjutancy, we predict, our Colonial Minister may safely depend in carrying out whatever measures, &c."

"The great stay of our social fabric, the pastoral interest, is fluctuating and unsettled; the all-important question of Colonial policy, the tenure of waste land, is not yet determined. A high or low nominal price can never affect the real value of the land. That value is determined solely by the inducements it presents to the capitalists. The Land Fund, too, is still withheld from the control of the people's representatives. Adequate representation, the concession of elective franchise to owners of live stock, as well as to those whose capital is vested in soil; and, correlative to this, the extension of the representative element in our Legislature, are subjects of last importance. District Councils (frozen vipers) are unknown amongst us.

"Turning from political to moral and social topics, we solicit attention to the vital necessity of a comprehensive scheme of National Education. The recent census informs us that a numerous native race is springing up throughout the colony, thousands of whom are approaching manhood without even the elements of education. And the only remedy, we believe, which will effectually meet the peculiar circumstances of the colony is a general system of education—a system which will aim, not at the advancement of sectarian interests, but at the inculcation of sound morality and virtuous habits.

"We eschew sectarian controversy, as unsuited to the character and objects of a newspaper. He, indeed, who by means of the Press, seeks to foster bigotry, and promote the strife of sects, is society's worst enemy, its most dangerous foe. Private acts are alone fit subjects for newspaper comment when they are inimical to the happiness and well-being of society.

"As a local journal, it will be our great object to make known the wants of the community; to point out the most eligible field presented to capital and enterprise; to inform the ignorant; to infuse animation into struggles for political and social rights; to unite the whole moral feeling and intelligence of the sphere in which we move; to transmit truthful representations of the state of this unrivalled portion of the colony to other and distant parts of the globe—to encourage every enterprise that will tend to benefit it, and in general to advance its interests, and promote its prosperity."

These are sentiments of so patriotic and elevated a character, so truly expressing the duty of the Press, that we need not apologise for so extended an extract from this Leader. As the *Courier* commenced its career with such honourable principles, it is gratifying to find that its present conductors, at the end of nearly half a century, are resolved to maintain its standard of righteousness and utility.

#### "THE WEEKLY HERALD."

One of the early Queensland Papers was the *Weekly Herald*, a volume of which is found at the British Museum, though only commencing with Number 7, on January 2nd, 1864.

It was printed and published by Theophilus Parsons Pugh, the originator of the well prepared and popular *Queensland Almanac*. There were twelve small demy pages of four columns each, and well printed, having a start of 58 advertisements in what was called the *New Series*.

Brisbane, the scene of its appearance, had then but a population of 4,651 males and 4,286 females, though the total number at the census of 1861, the year after independence, was only 6,061. The larger part of the community was scattered about in the pastoral Bush.

The *Herald* had a capital selection of Colonial and English News, fairly written tales, some poetry, a political article by *Meenachin*, *Old Tom* upon Old Times, with much space devoted to stock and to cotton cultivation. One colonial fashion was thus properly condemned:—"Of all the folly that has ever beset the community, that of *Shouting* has held its ground the longest, and is the most absurd. Nine times out of ten, the individual invited to drink has not the slightest wish to do so, but dare not refuse, for he will certainly offend the landlord for 'taking a shingle off his house,' and will probably offend the 'Shouter,' who very likely cares more for drink than his friend."

On January 9th, the day of its departure was thus declared:—"Although the *Herald* has only been eight weeks in existence, we number more than 600 *bond-fide* subscribers on our list, with constant accessions pouring in, and our circulation is nearly 900. Our readers will exclaim, 'Why stop, if your prospects are so encouraging?' The subjoined document will explain—

"About the beginning of October last, the undersigned waited on Mr. T. P. Pugh and asked his advice as to the resuscitation of the *Weekly Herald*. Mr. Pugh stated that he had no idea of re-issuing the paper himself, as he had lost £400 by the former series, and was not in a position to incur further pecuniary responsibility, although it would give him great pleasure to see the paper in existence again. Mr. Pugh advised us to try what a canvass would do. We followed his advice, and with such success, that when that gentleman saw the list of subscribers, he offered us the use of his material, and also proffered his services in an editorial capacity, were we inclined to launch into the speculation. Others, also (through, we are bound to state, Mr. Pugh's influence), stepped forward to assist us pecuniarily, and thus the *Herald* was started. With what success we have produced eight numbers, we leave our readers to judge. The undertaking, however, proved much heavier than we anticipated; and the want of promised pecuniary support in other quarters, has determined us in discontinuing the issue of the paper after the present number."

(Signed) A. MACKAY, S. G. MEE, G. H. DICK, T. EVERITT.

The next week, Saturday, January 16th, came forth the WEEKLY HERALD, WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE WEEKLY GUARDIAN. It began with this notice:—"The GUARDIAN SUMMARY will be on Sale at the publishing office, and at the various agents in town on Monday and Tuesday. It will contain reports of all the important religious, social, political, and commercial movements of the month, and will afford the best means by which persons may inform their friends at home concerning the condition and progress of the colony."

Then there follow the usual serial tales, with news, and a political article by *Meeanchin*. The *Queensland Times* was then esteemed the Government organ. Mr. Wight, the publisher of the *Guardian*, became the publisher of the *Weekly Herald*, having this announcement:—"The *Weekly Herald* has now therefore become the property of the proprietor of the *Guardian*, and will be published every Saturday morning at the *Guardian* Office." The Editorial added—

"The *Weekly Herald* appears this morning as a paper of sixteen pages, instead of twelve pages, as formerly. The circulation of the *Weekly Guardian* has been added to that of the *Weekly Herald*, thus securing for the *Herald* an unapproached circulation. Advertisers will not fail to appreciate the fact."

There were 68 advertisements in that issue of this family paper. The news and general information were of excellent quality. *Boomerang* became one of the early correspondents.

In the article, "Our Press," on the last day of 1864, we learn that "within the past twelve months two journals—the *Port Denison Times* and the *Peak Downs Telegram* have both started into existence." The *Toowoomba Chronicle* is declared of a larger size, and printed on good paper; the *Darling Downs Gazette* had become a bi-weekly, and the *Warwick Argus* had been resuscitated "under more favourable auspices."

The fourteen pages, four columns each, were well got up, and the Editor could proudly affirm—"We can now boast that the *Weekly Herald* has by far the largest circulation of any newspaper in Queensland. The *Herald* is already the largest newspaper in the colony. Its incorporation with itself of such a valuable and well known publication as *Fettorini's Circular*, and increasing its size by four additional pages, will give us," &c.

A few additional Press notes have been kindly furnished us by Mr. Parkinson of the *Queensland Times*.

The *North Australian*, of Ipswich, was started in September, 1855, by Messrs. Bays, becoming a bi-weekly in 1858, but sold to Bishop Quinn for the organ of Roman Catholics. Not long after, it was removed to Brisbane, where it gradually came to an end. Its earliest editor, Mr. A. Sydney Lyon, left in 1857, to commence the *Darling Downs Gazette*.

The *Ipswich Herald* began in July, 1859, as a bi-weekly, under the management of Mr. Gregory, afterwards Government printer; the first editor, Mr. G. H. Hall, was aided, as Leader writer, by Mr. Macalister, subsequently Premier. Sold to Messrs. Parkinson and others, the paper was changed to the *Queensland Times*, still a most successful journal.

Thus Queensland, the last of the Australias to receive Independence, has kept well abreast of others in Press honours; in spite of its Printer's Early Struggles.

